



Town of The Blue Mountains
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June 28, 2007

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative
177 North State Street, Suite 500
Chicago, Illinois 60601

ATTN: David Ullrich, Executive Director
RE: Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award

Dear Sir,

Thank you for providing the Town with the opportunity to participate in this award and recognition program. The Town appreciates any consideration you may give our initiative.

The Town is requesting the Best Practice Award/Grant to assist with the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) and specifically help in the area of water conservation and source protection. However, the integrated plan will include other areas of the environment and will draw on the local community to move the plan development further ahead. Currently, the Town has created an Integrated Community Sustainability Committee that will steer the plan. The Committee is comprised of members of Town Council and members of the community.

An ICSP and a local action plan will be ambitious, complex and a comprehensive partnership between many community sectors. It is anticipated that a multi-disciplinary approach will be required and a number of mechanisms will be employed to carry out the actions or projects identified in the plan. For the Town to make significant reductions in GhG emissions and water use several integrated activities will need to be implemented. Areas of focus will inevitably include the development and integration of a comprehensive sustainable community plan, that will include the following: Land use planning and management; energy conservation; multi-modal transportation system; post-consumer resource conservation/solid and liquid waste management; source water protection and conservation; wastewater management; sustainable agricultural practices; biodiversity and biomass conservation; soils; economic prosperity and other issues as identified by the planning process.

Please find more details of the project attached in the prepared description. If you have any questions regarding the project please feel free to contact me at the phone number or email address below – thank you for your time.

Jeffery Fletcher
Town of The Blue Mountains

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffery Fletcher", written over a horizontal line.

Manager of Solid Waste and Environmental Initiatives
(519) 599-3131 x238
jfletcher@town.thebluemountains.on.ca

c.c: Paul Graham, CAO, Town of The Blue Mountains
Mayor Ellen Anderson and Members of Council, Town of The Blue Mountains



The Blue Mountains is requesting funding support to assist in developing a community-scale project. The project will be an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan (ICSP) and will address all aspects of environmental health, social and cultural health and economic vigor within the community. A focus will be placed on community engagement, environmental action, local infrastructure and economy.

The outcomes will provide benefits to both the local and global environment. The ICSP will also focus on water conservation including for example: encouraging xerophytic landscape design and bioregional plant selection; water loss balance studies to isolate and prevent system water loss; and rain barrel and roof water collection programs.

The Town is experiencing significant growth which is putting associated demand on the Municipal Corporation. Part of this demand creates the need for increased service level, new programs and new infrastructure. The Town believes it is important to ensure that all these new programs and associated plans be guided by an over arching sustainability concept. Using the principles of sustainability throughout each and every study and program within the Town will infuse environmental perspectives into all areas of the Town.

The Town sees a sustainable community as a Town that has taken steps to remain healthy over the long term. Sustainable communities have a strong sense of place with a vision that is embraced and actively promoted by all of the key sectors of our community. We will build on our community assets and dare to be innovative. The Town will continue to value and strengthen our commitment towards healthy ecosystems, efficient use of resources, and retaining and enhancing a locally-based economy. We will seek strong partnerships between and among government, the business sector, and non-profit organizations and volunteerism will be pervasive. The use of public debate will assist program development and it will be engaging, inclusive and constructive. The Town's community development approach will include the whole community, ecosystem protection, social participation and economic self reliance.

The integrated community sustainability plan will address the wide variety of environmental issues as determined during the process of plan development. In general, issues of air, water and soil health and conservation will be identified. Also, community energy and water use and ecological preservation and restoration will be among the incorporated issues. The local economy, quality of place and active healthy people are also critical to sustainable communities. Building upon the community's natural heritage and agricultural business will be a major part of this planning exercise.

Through an inventory conducted this past year on the Town's corporate and community greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions the Town now has the understanding of the connection between water use and GhG emissions. Corporate electrical consumption accounts for 70% of the corporate eCO2 emissions and approximately 50% of which comes from the water/wastewater sector. If the Town can develop a culture to conserve water and further develop the community support for the use of renewables (i.e: non-emitters of CO2) for water treatment we have the opportunity to reduce CO2 emissions and water use and achieve better Great Lakes and St. Lawrence water way protection.

Sustainable Community Planning processes, and the resulting plans, are successful if they engage key stakeholders in both the planning and implementation process. The Blue Mountains approach focuses on identifying key partners to share in the responsibility of both developing, and subsequently implementing the plan. The Town's approach is designed to demonstrate that a community-based partnership approach will be more sustainable over the longer term.

The absence of an ICSP would result in a lack of "horizontal integration" between various departmental plans or community initiatives. The result is that the economies of scale and critical mass of people and

energy required to implement certain initiatives is not present within each department or community "silo". The community integration function actively identifies commonalities within various plans or projects and aligns the tasks and energy to make best use of available resources. i.e., a home energy auditor could also assist with water conservation and solid waste reduction measures as part of an overall residential sustainability program.

This Sustainable Community Planning framework is depicted graphically below:

