



Small Cities Sustainability Award Submissions

Purpose of the Award:

While large cities have the resources to act, small cities – with populations of under 100,000 – often do not. The Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award will award \$5,000 to one small city in the U.S. or Canada working to protect the environment and improve its quality for future generations. Cities with populations under 100,000 are encouraged to submit a sustainable and meaningful project for consideration for an award that balances economic, social, and environmental aspects within the community that could be used as a best practice in other cities.

2007 Small Cities Sustainability Award Submissions:

City of Racine, Wisconsin

Racine would use the award to plant native vegetation in the vicinity of the Root River Environmental Education Center (REC) to reduce the impacts of storm water and serve as a hands-on activity for area school children; support the Safe Water Is My Responsibility program which provides annual environmental education activities related to Great Lakes water quality to fourth and fifth graders; set up permanent water quality monitoring stations on the Root River to assess water quality improvements as environmental protection measures are implemented (also an opportunity for hands-on environmental education); and host an open house to attract additional attention and support of the REC from the minority, urban population which reside in its immediate vicinity.

City of Beaconsfield, Quebec

Since 1995 Beaconsfield has acted to sustain and improve its sanitary infrastructure. In the past, during periods of heavy rain and flooding, the City has operated bypass pumps resulting in raw sewage being pumped directly into the river. This has been damaging to water quality and downstream shorelines. The problem has been worsened by the use of residential sump pumps that are connected directly to the sanitary system rather than using the proper ditches located in front of residences. In 2006, Beaconsfield began the “Pump Patrol,” a group of trained students that will inspect all of the 6000+ homes in Beaconsfield to ensure that residences are legally connected. The patrol has been very successful in their efforts and the city hopes to reach 100% compliance by 2008. The final result will be the end of raw sewage pumped into the river, a huge reduction in the amount of clean water being sent to the sewage plant, a



well-nourished water table as the output of sump pumps percolates into the ground through the ditch system, and there should be no more flooding.

Town of The Blue Mountains, ON

The Town of The Blue Mountains would use the award to assist with the development of an Integrated Community Sustainability Plan that will be a community-based partnership approach intended to focus on community engagement, environmental action, local infrastructure and the economy. Specifically, the plan will include: land use planning and management; energy conservation; multimodal 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. The Town of Blue Mountains recognizes the connection between water use and greenhouse gas emissions and is committed to sustainability as the Town grows to meet the needs of its growing population.

City of Mequon, WI

The City of Mequon hopes to use this award to build upon existing sustainability efforts including publications and newspapers featuring sustainability issues as well as the completion of a 12,000 square foot LEED building. The building, which is located on a 438-acre nature preserve, houses the PieperPower Education Center. The Center will demonstrate sustainable practices, products and technologies and will house organizations whose missions include sustainability and who will provide educational programs to surrounding communities. Specifically, the award would be used to kick-off a community wide effort to vegetate the Center's roof. The Center is located within five miles of a low-income area of the city of Milwaukee and would have an impact beyond Mequon by welcoming almost 40,000 children from this area. Mequon is also working with local groups in Milwaukee to revitalize an economically challenged area in Milwaukee and will construct a paved trail connecting this area with the Mequon industrial park passing the Center, assisting people to reach their jobs.