



Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award

The Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practice Award (Wege Award) is a grant of \$5,000 to a small Canadian or U.S. Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative member city working to improve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Basin for future generations. The award was established in 2007 by the City of Grand Rapids, the Wege Foundation and the Cities Initiative. The Wege Foundation has generously agreed to continue funding the award.

2009 SUBMISSIONS:

Township of the Archipelago - *Handbook for Residents*

The Township of the Archipelago's handbook "Caring for Our Waterfront Property for Future Generations" aims to make people aware of the depreciation, both financial and environmental, that can accrue on waterfront property through ill-conceived alterations or development.

Racine - *Root River Environmental Education Community Center*

The Root River Environmental Education Community Center addresses an urgent need to improve social equity and connect urban individuals to the environment where they live, work, and recreate by bringing awareness to residents on how integral their environmental surroundings are to daily life.

Sheffield Lake - *Stormwater Reduction / Rain Barrel Program*

Sheffield Lake aims to reuse rainwater and stop stormwater runoff through a stormwater reduction/rain barrel program which includes providing residents with a rain barrel, help with installation, and free public classes on how to create a rain garden as well as the advantages of conserving water.

Evanston - *Climate Action Plan*

City officials and community members worked together to develop the Evanston Climate Action Plan that aims to reduce Evanston's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions through actions like water conservation, rainwater management, and reaching out to low-income households to help with implementation of energy efficient measures.

Town of Ajax - *Genetic Testing on Beach Health*

The Town of Ajax is working to find an effective, affordable solution to chronic high bacteria levels at their beaches and excessive amounts of rotting algae that builds up along the shoreline, by participating in various water quality studies.

Collingwood - *Water Conservation*

Collingwood, Ontario has implemented a number of water conservation efforts within the community, such as the development of a sustainable full-cost water and wastewater rate structure, and hopes to continue its progress with installation of higher efficiency residential meters.

Town of the Blue Mountains - *Environmental Sustainability and Education*

The Town of the Blue Mountains has become a steward of its natural landscape through projects such as the *Beaver River Shorefront Clean-ups* and the Town's efforts to partner with Ontario Parks and the Ministry of Transportation to protect waterfront, and hopes to continue similar work into the future and to educate its citizens on sustainable practices.

For more information on each of these submissions, visit www.gslscities.org/projects.htm#Wege or contact Melissa Soline at 312-201-4517 or melissa.soline@gslscities.org.