



2010 Water Conservation Awards

The GLSLCI Water Conservation Framework recognition program aims to acknowledge cities that are doing good work on water conservation.

1. Recognition Categories:
 - a. **Most innovative conservation method** – recognizes a city that takes an innovative approach to conserve water or to encourage water conservation.
 - b. **Most progress on water conservation**- recognizes a city that has made great improvement on their water conservation efforts over the year.
2. Criteria for recognition:
 - a. Program or project is currently being implemented
 - b. Program or project results in water conservation
3. Additional considerations to be taken into account for recognition:
 - a. Program or project produces measurable water savings
 - b. Can be replicated with other cities
 - c. Demonstrates a new technology
 - d. Increases public awareness
 - e. Creates behavioral changes
 - f. Shows innovation

The following are the submissions for the GLSLCI 2010 Water Conservation Framework recognition program, by category

MOST INNOVATIVE CONSERVATION METHOD

Chicago

Chicago is spending \$400,000 per year on underground leak detection. In addition the city strives to achieve a goal of replacing 42 of the 4,200 miles of underground infrastructure annually. The city promotes its MeterSave program that allows homeowners to voluntarily install meters to save money and save water in their homes. Along with the installation of their own meter, homeowners involved in the program are eligible for incentives such as rain barrels, outdoor and indoor conservation kits. The program has over 5,000 customers signed up for the MeterSave program for 2010.

Collingwood

Through a strong commitment to education, the city of Collingwood involves its community in water conservation methods. Youth education is facilitated through a partnership with Elephant Thoughts – a non-profit who focuses on filling in the gaps in

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environmental education to Ontario elementary science curriculums. The program strives to teach both children and their parents through behavior changes, best practices to conserving water. In addition to the youth education programs, the city has been fully metered since 1990 with a tiered cost system to rewards those who work towards curbing water usage. Finally, last summer the city launched a Water Efficiency Rebate Program that provided at \$50 rebate to residents who replace old toilets with low flow models.

Hamilton

With conservation well under way in the City of Hamilton, the city will continue to educate the citizens on leak detection and the value of water. The city will be moving more aggressively to educate residents on municipal well systems. A pilot program is under way in one small community with the installation of water efficient fixtures to measure their potential savings monetarily and with respect to water. The market place in the city of Hamilton is shifting towards a water-efficient work and life style.

Peel Region

The Region of Peel's Water Efficiency Plan involves a number of projects and community involvement to achieve success across the board in water conservation. A sustainable neighborhood study began in 2009 to monitor the effect of traditional landscaping combined with eco-gardening innovations and its result on reduction stormwater runoff and water billing. The study will collect data for the next five years before concluding. The Region also adopted the Uniform North American Requirements for its Toilet Replacement Program and has initiated a humidifier rebate program to encourage the purchase of more water efficient units. Finally an Industrial, Commercial and Institutional (ICI) Outdoor Irrigation Pilot Project began in 2009. This project looks at the changes in summer water use and optimizing time based irrigation systems and smart controller programs. ICI institutions will be subject to water audits to determine and measure the best methods for water conservation and water savings.

St. Catharines

The City of St. Catharines has been engaging their youth in water conservation methods with various school education al programs. In addition, the city is highly involved with the *Niagara Children's Water Festival*, which educates children on the importance of water as a precious natural resource and also invites hands-on activities.

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Thunder Bay

Thunder Bay developed “water-bars” for residents to fill up their reusable water bottles through the municipal supply at public events. The city hopes this will encourage less use of disposable water bottles. The city’s present their municipal water to their residents as a “lake to lake” approach. There is an emphasis on the water that they take from Lake Superior will return there. In 2009, the cities partnership with EcoSuperior Environmental Programs resulted in 293 toilet replacements, presentations on water conservation to 800 elementary students, the distribution of over 550 rain barrel and 383 water saver visits to residential households – which included the distribution of 2 faucet aerators.

Toronto

Toronto’s Water Efficiency Plan (WEP), which was implemented in 2003, has engaged various sectors in water conservation. A toilet replacement program provides rebates to residents who install high performance toilets. Water audit programs have been instituted from residential homeowners to industrial/commercial/institutional sectors. Reduced water rates are incentives to industrial users based on their commitment to support and implement sustainable water saving measure and projects. In addition, local utilities have been providing water conserving showerheads to residents, free of charge, for quite some time. It is estimated that the WEP has save roughly 72.6 ML per day throughout the greater Toronto system since its inception in 2003.

MOST PROGRESS ON WATER CONSERVATION

Cobourg

The City of Cobourg has been almost fully metered since 1960. Sanitary sewer charges are based on this metered system, allowing more room for conservation efforts. The city promotes energy efficient shower heads along with low-flow flapperless toilets. Finally, a leak detection program was put in place that incorporates automated dataloggers to survey leaks over the entire distribution system. Cobourg also reduced their water consumption city-wide by over 20% in 2009.

Montréal

Major investments in rehabilitation of underground infrastructure took place in 2009 throughout the City of Montréal. The 2009 Réseau Environment campaign highlighted the need to conserve water and raised awareness with residents on the costs of drinking water and the impact on usage to city infrastructure. Events held through the Réseau

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Environment campaign reached almost 300 people and 900 children at various day camps. The city also introduced a program to recover rainwater to be used to water lawns. Finally the city will work with Hazen-Williams to perform a study on the hydraulic pipes and water infrastructure, without interrupting water service, to evaluate hydraulic capacity.

Québec

Québec has taken six actions to conserve its water. Since 2002, the city instituted a program to replace all old pipes, including projects of \$48 million for the replacement and the rehabilitation of drinking water and wastewater system. A bylaw mandates all industries, enterprises and institutions situated in the agglomeration of Québec to install water metering utilities, contributing to research leaks in the system and to calculate global potential of economy. A team was created to dedicate their efforts on water leak detection and on drinking water conservation. In addition to their 600 visits of buildings, the team detected 329 water leaks to conserve 6.5% of water consumption. Other bylaws helps water conservation by regulating garden watering, limiting water using capacity of air-conditioning and cooling equipment, prohibiting all devices with a periodic flush, and installation of low capacity toilets. It is enforced by a “green police”. Furthermore, a multiservice committee is working on the creation of a sustainable drinking water management policy – similar to that of the province.

Rochester

The Rochester Water Bureau has leak detection crews that utilize mechanical, acoustical and computerized leak detection equipment. The Water Bureau has also implemented an intensive corrosion control program to monitor large transmission pipelines and distribution pipes. This effort will help reduce future water main leaks and breaks that lead to extreme losses of water. Plastic pipelines have also been installed where highly corrosive soil does appear. Finally, the city is working on expanding their website to include helpful information on water conservation to residents.

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