



MAKING WAVES

November 5, 2009

Rochester Schools Receive EPA Green Power Partnership Recognition

The U.S. EPA's Green Power Partnership has highlighted the Rochester City School District as one of their Top 20 Green Power Partner schools. The program looks to highlight school systems that use the most power from renewable sources including solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas and low-impact hydropower. The Rochester School District, comprised of 34,000 students, purchases wind power which accounts for 18% of their electricity use through their local utility provider. The Rochester School District has also been recognized as an Energy Star leader and is continually enthusiastic about their environmentally conscious community. The City of Rochester itself is using energy generated by 28% green sources. For more information on the EPA's Green Power Partnership, please visit their website at www.epa.gov/greenpower/toplists/top20k-12schools.htm.

Ashland, Wisconsin's Redevelopment Plans

The City of Ashland is a proud Smart Growth Coastal City winner, an award sponsored by the Great Lakes Commission and NOAA's Coastal Services Center. The City has partnered with the Wisconsin Coastal Management Program to assist in transitioning its industry-based economy to an economy focused on waterfront tourism and services. The future direction that the residents of Ashland have decided upon incorporates new land-use plans, sustainable development and waterfront redevelopment. A few of the projects which Award funds will go to include stormwater drain marking, nonpoint pollution issues and the development of both a comprehensive city plan and a waterfront improvement plan.

Marquette Joins Michigan Green Communities Challenge

The City of Marquette, Michigan passed a resolution to become a part of Michigan Municipal League's *Green Communities Challenge*. The program encourages governing bodies to increase energy efficiency and conservation throughout their community. The program includes a commitment from the city's governing body and an assessment of the current progress of conservation in municipal operations. Some targets of the challenge include creating an energy improvement plan for government operations, adopting a sustainability plan, implementing broad ranging recycling programs, and considering renewable energy sources to power municipal facilities. For more information on Michigan's Green Communities Challenge please visit their website at www.mml.org/resources/educenter/green_challenge.html.

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St. Lawrence Beach Project

The St. Lawrence River Institute of Environmental Sciences in Cornwall and other partners and municipalities are working together to determine links between bacterial occurrences, inputs and other environmental factors in St. Lawrence beach closings. This proposed study will ultimately try to reduce beach warnings along St. Lawrence River recreational areas. It is anticipated that proactive management and predictive modeling will help forecast E.coli occurrences along beaches. The first stage of the study will include beach observations, monitoring and sanitary surveys. Forecasting formulas and Beneficial Beach Management Practices (BBMPs) will follow in coming years of the project. The goal of the study is to inform communities about beach health and allow other aquatic recreational sites to follow new protocols and BBMP's along the St. Lawrence River region.

Cities Initiative Presents at Ocean, Great Lakes Task Force Public Meeting

Dave Ullrich participated in a panel that spoke at a public meeting held by the U.S. Ocean Policy Task Force in Cleveland on October 30, 2009. The President's Council on Environmental Quality is leading this effort to have a much more comprehensive policy for the Federal government relating to large water bodies like the oceans and Great Lakes, and to better integrate the efforts of the Federal departments and agencies involved. Dave's presentation emphasized the important role of local governments in developing policies and implementing actions to protect and restore the resource, and for any new policy to reflect the unique nature of the Great Lakes and the ongoing work to advance this effort. For more information, visit:

http://www.whitehouse.gov/assets/documents/09_17_09_Interim_Report_of_Task_Force_FINAL2.pdf

St. Lawrence Areas of Concern Receive Clean-Up Funding

The Government of Canada announced \$290,000 in funding through the Great Lakes Sustainability Fund for five projects to clean the St. Lawrence Area of Concern at Cornwall, Ontario. The Ministry of the Environment is putting forth a total of \$2.2 million for 38 projects this year in hopes of cleaning up and protecting the Great Lakes. This year alone the Government of Canada is moving forward with clean up efforts at 15 Areas of Concern throughout the Great Lakes Basin with local partners. The commitment and actions of local communities have been at the forefront of these clean-up efforts.

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Save the Date – Cities Initiative Annual Member Meeting & Conference!

Mark your calendars - the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference will be held June 16-18, 2010 in Milwaukee, WI! Stay tuned for more information on the 2010 Annual Member Meeting and Conference.

Membership

Join the 70 Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members in protecting and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River by clicking [here](#) for a membership application. If you are already a member, please encourage your neighboring communities to join, and be sure to renew your membership when you receive your notice.

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