



## **MAKING WAVES**

**February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012**

### ***Report Released on Restoring the Natural Divide, Stopping Asian Carp and Invasives***

The Cities Initiative and its partner the Great Lakes Commission released their report on restoring the natural divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins with physical, earthen barriers on January 31, 2012. The result is the work of the two organizations over the past 18 months, and demonstrates that physical separation is feasible and that it can stop the passage of invasive species in both directions, while maintaining or improving flood management, water quality, and transportation in the waterway. The report presents three options for physical separation and the range of costs is between \$3.25 billion and \$9.6 billion, with only a small portion for construction of the barriers. It would take 10 years to get the barriers in place, and the interim measures of the electric barrier and intensive commercial fishing are essential to keep the Asian Carp out of Lake Michigan. A more detailed summary will be provided in the next Making Waves. Contact Dave Ullrich at [david.ullrich@glslcities.org](mailto:david.ullrich@glslcities.org) for more information.

### ***Grand Rapids Honored by Earth Day Network***

The City of Grand Rapids was honored by the *Earth Day Network*, an environmental advocacy organization based in Washington D.C, as one of the five model cities for efforts to reduce energy and carbon emissions. Some of the efforts that helped Grand Rapids achieve this honor include solar panels on the roof of utility buildings, installing charging stations for electric cars across the city and giving City Hall more higher-efficient windows. The City has aimed to get 30 percent of its energy from renewable resources by 2012 and is already at 21 percent. Haris Alibasic, Director of Sustainability, looks at these projects as a large economic gain in addition to the environmental and social benefits they provide. Congratulations to Mayor George Heartwell and Haris Alibasic for their continued efforts!

### ***IJC Releases New Approach to Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence Water Levels***

The International Joint Commission (IJC) released a new approach to managing water levels in Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River. The new approach will allow for more natural water levels and flow patterns that will improve the overall environment. A new Adaptive Management plan would be considered as well, to be prepared for future changes in climate and other socio-economic matters. Public input will be considered as they fully develop their new water level approach in collaboration with the Federal, Provincial and State governments. The IJC will be welcoming public comments in developing this new approach at public information sessions in the spring of 2012. Written comments will be considered if received by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012. For more information on the new approach and details on public involvement, please visit [www.ijc.org/LOSLR](http://www.ijc.org/LOSLR).

### ***Save-the-Date!***

Please save-the-date for the 2012 GLSLCI Annual Meeting and Conference in Québec City, June 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>. The Cities Initiative will keep you updated on what is in store for this year's Annual Meeting in the coming months.



## ***Membership***

Join the 82 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.