

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Alliance des villes des Grands Lacs et du Saint-Laurent

**GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE**  
**ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT**

**RESOLUTION 7 – 2007M**

**SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES**

**WHEREAS**, in 1987 the United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development introduced the term *sustainability*—now commonly used as in the present context—when it declared that “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”;

**WHEREAS**, a sustainable city or municipality enhances the economic, social, cultural, and environmental well-being of current and future generations;

**WHEREAS**, the American Planning Association developed the following four principles in 2000 to help communities implement sustainable practices:

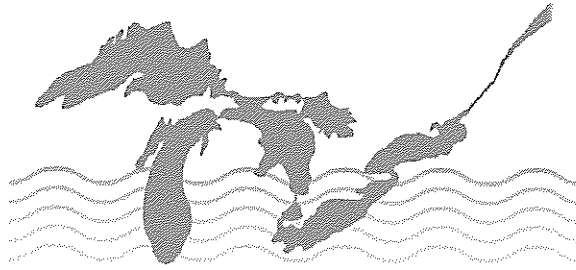
1. Reduce dependence on fossil fuels, extracted underground metals and materials;
2. Reduce dependence on chemicals and other manufactured substances that can accumulate in nature;
3. Reduce dependence on activities that harm life-sustaining ecosystems;
4. Meet the hierarchy of present and future human needs fairly and efficiently;

**WHEREAS**, the local, action-oriented nature of cities and municipalities make them the ideal order of government for sustainability-related improvements and piloting projects;

**WHEREAS**, citizens are more directly engaged with their city or municipality than their state or nation and cities and municipalities are able to act more quickly on behalf of their citizens;

**WHEREAS**, while many cities and municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River have already adopted and implemented sustainable practices, many have committed in principal to sustainability but are challenged for various reasons in developing and funding such efforts;

**WHEREAS**, cities and municipalities on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River have responsibility to help ensure the sustainability of these shared common resources for current and future generations;



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**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need for cities and municipalities to be sustainable; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognize the responsibility to share and promote sustainability best practices with one another; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative recognizes a responsibility to work toward greater sustainability and foster greater awareness of local sustainable actions that can and are being implemented, and to work with cities and municipalities to urge action in other levels of government to further sustainability.

Signed this 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007

  
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Gary Becker, Chair

Mayor of Racine  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative