



Making Waves

Membership Edition

March 18, 2016

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2016 Annual Meeting: Registration is Open!

The 2016 Annual Meeting will take place June 15-17 in Niagara Falls, NY. Register by visiting: <http://glslcities.org/events/annual-meeting/>. Panels will touch on climate change adaptation, municipal impacts of new nutrient targets, municipal sustainability initiatives, safe drinking water and Phragmites control. We will update the program as we get closer to the event. Come and enjoy the natural wonders of the area and hear about best practices and solutions to make our region better. We look forward to seeing many of you in June!

Cities Initiative and Great Lakes Groups Urge Commitment

The Cities Initiative along with Great Lakes business, industry, conservation

leaders and a state organization have urged presidential candidates to commit to restoring and protecting the Great Lakes. The Healing Our Waters-Great Lakes Coalition, Council of Great Lakes Industries, Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition, Great Lakes Commission, and the Cities Initiative have sent a Great Lakes platform to candidates Hillary Clinton, Ted Cruz, John Kasich, Bernie Sanders, and Donald Trump, asking the White House aspirants to maintain at least \$300 million-per-year in federal investment to protect and restore the Great Lakes and to better the region's environment and economy. The platform reads: "Protecting and restoring the Great Lakes for the 40 million people who depend on them for drinking water in the United States and Canada, millions who enjoy outdoor recreation on the Lakes, and 1.5 million people whose jobs are directly connected to the Great Lakes will be a priority for my administration." Read the platform here:<http://www.healthylakes.org/2016-platform/>. The partners releasing the Great Lakes platform today are neither endorsing, nor opposing, any presidential candidate.

Pharmacy Drug Take-back Program Initiated in New York

Four pharmacies in New York's Oneida and Lewis counties will begin collecting leftover pharmaceuticals from residents free of charge. Designed and implemented by the Product Stewardship Institute (PSI) and the New York Product Stewardship Council (NYPSC), this drug take-back pilot program offers county residents convenient locations to dispose of their leftover and expired medications - just one part of a comprehensive strategy to reduce the public health and environmental impacts resulting from unwanted drugs. Funded through a grant awarded to PSI and NYPSC by the United States Department of Agriculture, the pilot program will use pharmacy-based collection receptacles and pre-paid mail-back envelopes to facilitate the proper disposal of leftover pharmaceuticals. The locked receptacles and envelopes, acquired through [Sharps Compliance, Inc.](#), allow residents to dispose of unused medications -- both over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription (Rx) drugs ([schedule II-V](#)) -- for free, no questions asked. In contrast to the collections that take place at police stations and non-pharmacy locations, this program represents the first time that pharmacies are collecting controlled and non-controlled substances in the two counties on an ongoing basis. The pilot program is scheduled for six months. To learn more, please click [here](#).

Coalition urges Congress to pass Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act

A coalition of Great Lakes states, cities, tribes, business, industry, and conservation leaders called on congressional leaders to pass the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Act, bipartisan legislation recently approved by committees in both the House and Senate. The bill would authorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI), a successful and popular program that is helping states and local partners clean up degraded toxic hotspots, restore habitat for fish and wildlife, thwart Asian carp and other invasive species, and prevent polluted runoff that can close beaches and cause harmful algal blooms in the eight-state Great Lakes region. The letter was signed jointly by the Great Lakes Commission, Healing Our Waters- Great Lakes Coalition, Great Lakes Fishery Commission, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority, Council of Great Lakes Industries and the Great Lakes Metro Chambers Coalition. To see the letter, click here: <http://glc.org/announce/2016-glri-funding-letter/>

Aquahacking 2016 Summit - Submit your Ideas

Montreal will host the 2016 AquaHacking Summit, in October, under the theme "United for the St. Lawrence". The Summit will be made up of a conference and a hackathon.

The AquaHacking hackathon brings together young digital designers, technology experts, and water experts in order to develop applications (web or mobile) to solve water-related issues. Prizes up to \$50,000 will be awarded, along with year-long mentoring by IBM and ÉTS. The Cities Initiative is a partner with AquaHacking 2016 through Scott McKay, member of the strategic committee put together by the De Gaspé Beaubien Foundation.

The City of Montreal is also a partner and Borough Mayor Chantal Rouleau spoke at the launch of the event. Cities Initiative members and their citizens are invited to send their ideas and St. Lawrence-related issues to be included in the event at:

<http://2016.aquahacking.com/en/>.

Montreal Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The City of Montréal published its *Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Agglomeration of Montréal 2015-2020*. The plan is the result of major stakeholder mobilization in which the services, boroughs and cities of the Agglomeration of Montréal took part. This plan presents a series of important measures to adapt to climate change that will be deployed over the next five

years. It has two components:

- A diagnosis of the adaptation challenges that the Agglomeration of Montréal is facing having six climatic hazards that may have impacts on the population, activities and environment - increasing average temperatures, heavy rain, heat waves, destructive storms, droughts and floods.
- The adaptation measures, including new measures and existing measures to strengthen, as well as the commitments made by different cities, boroughs and services of the Agglomeration of Montréal.

The English executive summary of the *Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the Agglomeration of Montréal 2015-2020* is available [here](#).

The Milwaukee Water Council Receives Funding for Water Standard

Continuing its work to protect and improve water quality, the Fund for Lake Michigan has recently awarded nearly \$1.4 million in private grants aimed at improving beaches, reducing polluted runoff and restoring critical habitat in Wisconsin. The 26 different projects receiving money stretch from Kenosha to Marinette and range from restoration of Harrington Beach State Park north of Port Washington to helping advance one of the country's largest fish passage projects on the Menominee River. Of note, the Fund is supporting The Water Council in Milwaukee as it launches the Alliance for Water Stewardship's new water use standard in North America. Similar to LEED Certification for buildings, the standard requires a building or site owner to ensure sustainable water use within a facility. The standard goes beyond LEED however by requiring the building owner to understand how their operations impact the surrounding watershed. A full of list of grants can be found [here](#).

Events and Webinars

<p>Greater Lakes: Reconnecting the Great Lakes Water Cycle</p> <p>Final webinar to showcase the project's final products that will aid municipalities in restoring the urban</p>	
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<p>water cycle.</p> <p>Speakers: John Jackson, Greater Lakes Project Manager; Becky Pearson; Great Lakes Commission and Jim Ridgway, Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.</p> <p>This three-year project explored and tested environmental and financial rationales for municipalities to adopt water conservation/efficiency and green infrastructure measures.</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 5, 2016 at 11:00 AM Eastern Duration: 1 hour Click here to register https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1567510329200119810</p>
<p>Phragmites Workshops with Georgian Bay Forever</p> <p>Free in-person workshops on Phragmites management and training community Phragmites managers in Collingwood and Toronto</p>	<p>Toronto: Saturday, April 16th. 9:30 - 2:30 Eastern. Collingwood: Thursday, April 21st. 9:30 - 2:30 Eastern. Click here to register</p>
<p>Water Resilient Cities Conference</p> <p>Levin College of Urban Affairs, Cleveland State</p>	<p>April 21-22nd</p>

<p>University</p> <p>Sharing practices from cities adapting to climate change across all sectors</p>	<p>Cleveland State University, Ohio</p> <p>Click to learn more and register</p>
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Funding Opportunities: U.S. and Canada

<p>Ontario Community Environment Fund (Canada): Past grants have funded habitat restoration work, Great Lakes invasive species prevention programs, air quality improvements, and municipal climate change programs.</p>	<p>Proposals due March 31, 2016</p> <p>Visit https://www.ontario.ca/page/ontario-community-environment-fund for more information.</p>
<p>Great Lakes Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Program (U.S.): Grants focusing on reducing phosphorus to the Great Lakes.</p>	<p>Proposals due March 31, 2016</p> <p>Visit http://keepingitontheland.net/apply-for-funding/ for more information.</p>

Membership

Please join the 121 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.

If your municipality would like to share news with the Cities Initiative, please email information to Melissa Soline at melissa.soline@glslcities.org.

