



Making Waves

Membership Edition

December 3rd, 2015

In this edition of Making Waves:

- [Welcome, Whitby and Fort Erie!](#)
 - [Best Practices Library now live](#)
 - [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities act on climate change](#)
 - [Great Lakes and St. Lawrence communities represented at COP21](#)
 - [Adaptation and Resilience: Integrating Watershed and Stormwater Management](#)
 - [Events and Webinars](#)
-

Welcome, new members! Whitby and Fort Erie, ON join the Cities Initiative

The Cities Initiative is pleased to welcome two new member municipalities to the organization - Whitby and Fort Erie, Ontario, which are led by Mayor Don Mitchell and Mayor Wayne Redekop, respectively. We are glad to have you as part of the organization!

Best Practices Library now live

The Cities Initiative is excited to announce its new Best Practices Library - a searchable database of Best Practices, Tools, and Information Documents targeted at our member municipalities in the Great Lakes -St. Lawrence Region. The Library facilitates a simple and easy research process; documents are sorted by category, region, and resource type, and resources are targeted towards both mayors and municipal staff.

[**Click here to visit the Best Practices Library.**](#)

The Cities Initiative will also hold a **30-minute training webinar**

on December 15th, 10 am Central/11 am Eastern, to demonstrate quick and easy ways to use the Best Practices Library. [Click here to register for the 30-minute training webinar.](#)

Great Lakes & St. Lawrence municipalities act on climate change

Over the past few months, Cities Initiative staff have inventoried action on climate change by member municipalities in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Region. Of our 119 members, 73 are taking action on climate change in some way; 31 have implemented greenhouse gas reduction targets; and 15 have joined the Compact of Mayors, an international effort for local greenhouse gas reductions. When combined, the 31 cities with greenhouse gas targets have reduced carbon dioxide emissions by over 27 million tons of CO₂. [Click here to view a full inventory of greenhouse gas reduction targets among Great Lakes-St. Lawrence municipalities.](#)

If your municipality is considering creating a climate change adaptation or mitigation plan, [visit the Best Practices library and select "Climate Adaptation Plans"](#) to view plans from other municipalities.

Great Lakes & St. Lawrence communities represented at COP21

As global leaders gather in Paris for the COP21 Climate Change meetings, local leaders from around the world are meeting to discuss local action on climate change. Mayor and Chair Mitch Twolan will represent Cities Initiative member municipalities at the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, convened by Mayor Anne Hidalgo (Paris) and former Mayor Michael Bloomberg (New York City) and the Compact of Mayors.

Mayors George Heartwell (Grand Rapids, MI), Denis Coderre (Montreal, QC), John Tory (Toronto, ON), Rahm Emanuel (Chicago, IL), and Caroline St-Hilaire (Longueuil, QC) are also participating in the week's events. The Cities Initiative thanks the Compact of Mayors and Bloomberg Philanthropies for opportunity to participate in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders in Paris. Read quick facts about the COP21 meetings from the [Globe and Mail](#) and [NPR](#).

Adaptation and Resilience: Integrating Watershed and Stormwater Management

The Cities of Hamilton, Ontario and Thunder Bay, Ontario participated in a pilot project with the Cities Initiative in 2014-2015 on municipal efforts to help address climate change impacts like

flooding by better integrating watershed and stormwater management. The project was funded by the RBC Blue Water Project Leadership Grant program and involved a number of partners within the cities. The project was a highlight at our 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference as well as on a webinar in the spring of 2015. The City of Hamilton conducted a climate change vulnerability assessment for the Lower Spencer Creek, specifically around the impact on critical infrastructure. The City of Thunder Bay developed a low impact development project for an area in the city that is prone to flooding and stormwater issues. To learn more, [click here for a project overview](#), archived webinar, and fact sheet (in English and French).

Events and Webinars

<p>Remote Sensing Series - Applying Adaptive Management Strategies to the control of non-native <i>Phragmites australis</i> in the Midwest: Colin Brooks of the Michigan Tech Research Institute will present current research, adaptive management strategies, and methods for implementing such strategies to manage <i>Phragmites</i>.</p>	<p>December 10th, 2-3pm EST. Click here to register.</p>
<p>Using the Cities Initiative Best Practices Library to Benefit your Municipality: Join us for a 30-minute webinar to learn about resources available on the library and to gain tips and tricks for using the database most efficiently and effectively.</p>	<p>December 15th, 10-10:30am CST / 11-11:30am EDT Click here to register.</p>

Membership

Please join the 119 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 Laura Bretheim at laura.bretheim@glslcities.org

