



Making Waves

Membership Edition

December 15th, 2015

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Paris and the Mayors of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region

On Friday, December 11th, the Cities Initiative Board of Directors convened for their Midyear meeting in Toronto, where they passed a resolution that called on the COP21 negotiators to limit warming to less than 2° C striving for a goal of 1.5° C; set a goal to collectively reduce 30 million tonnes of equivalent CO2 by 2020 from Great Lakes-St. Lawrence jurisdictions (the equivalent of taking 6 million cars off the road for a year); and called the COP21 negotiators to support cities through a Climate Change Fund, among other things.

[Read the Resolution here](#)

[Read the Press Release here](#)

After the resolution was passed, it was sent to contacts at the negotiations at COP21 in Paris, where leaders would finalize an agreement the next day. The world is still buzzing with the news that 196 countries finalized an historic agreement last Saturday that calls for a limit to global temperature increase below 2° C.

[Read the final COP21 agreement here.](#)

The week before the negotiations were finalized, Chair Mitch Twolan (Huron-Kinloss, ON), Mayor George Heartwell (Grand Rapids, MI), and Executive Director Dave Ullrich traveled to Paris to participate in the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, a day-long conference where over 440 mayors from around the world convened to discuss climate action at the local level. Read Dave Ullrich's full recap of the event here: ["What it's like to be in a room with 446 Mayors."](#) Member Mayors Denis Coderre (Montreal, QC) and Caroline St-Hilaire (Longueuil, QC) also attended the week's events.

Additional Links about Local Leaders and Climate Change:

[Paris City Hall Declaration](#)

[Greenhouse Gas Reduction Efforts Among Members of the Cities Initiative](#)



446 Mayors Convened for the Climate Summit for Local Leaders, Paris

Member Municipalities Act on Climate Change

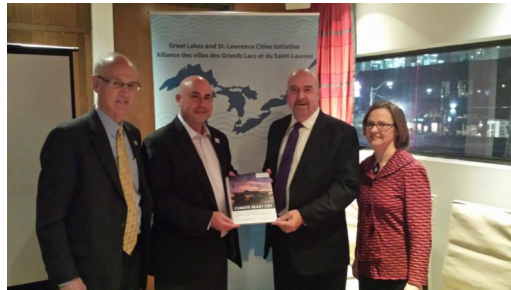
To date, 18 members of the Cities Initiative have joined the Compact of Mayors, an organization that works with municipalities to monitor, inventory, and limit greenhouse gas emissions. Those municipalities are: Montreal (QC); Toronto, Hamilton, Windsor, Thunder Bay, Chatham-Kent, Durham Region, St. Catharines, Bruce County (ON); Ashland, Milwaukee, Racine (WI); Chicago, Evanston (IL); Grand Rapids, South Haven, Muskegon (MI); and Rochester

(NY).

If your city would like to join or learn more about the Compact of Mayors, visit <http://www.compactofmayors.org/> or email Scott McKay (scott.mckay@gislscities.org) at the Cities Initiative.

Thunder Bay Launches Climate Adaptation Strategy

On Thursday, December 10, the City of Thunder Bay formally unveiled 'Climate-Ready City: City of Thunder Bay Climate Adaptation Strategy' to address the impacts of climate change on a local level. The strategy is the result of more than two years of work, including consultations with City staff across all departments and community stakeholders. The City of Thunder Bay has been implementing climate change mitigation measures since 2007 through the EarthCare Sustainability Plan. Mayor Keith Hobbs also presented the strategy to Cities Initiative's Board of Directors at their midyear meeting in Toronto. Please visit www.climatereadycity.com to consult the Strategy.



Mayor Hobbs (R) presents Climate Ready City Plan to Chair Twolan (L) with Exec. Director David Ullrich (far L) and Deputy Director Nicola Crawhall (far R)

Waukesha Diversion Application Update

The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources is completing its review of the city of Waukesha's water diversion application. The department intends to forward the technical review, a preliminary final environmental impact statement and application materials within 30-60 days to the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence River Water Resources Regional Body (Regional Body), which is composed of the other Great Lakes states and Canadian provinces of Quebec and Ontario for regional review.

In preparation for this transmission, the Regional Body, along with the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Council (Compact Council) will hold a joint special meeting on January 7, 2016, at 2pm EDT. The meeting will focus on the review process and budget. Public comments will be accepted on these issues only. The meeting will take place via phone conference and webinar. Cities Initiative staff will participate in that meeting and update the

membership of new developments. For more information, visit

<http://www.glsregionalbody.org/>.

Sarnia Mayor Recognized for 30 Years of Public Service

Congratulations to Mayor Mike Bradley of Sarnia, Ontario, who was formally recognized by the Ontario Legislative Assembly for his thirty years of public service in the province. He is the second-longest serving mayor in Ontario, having been in office for 27 years, and has shown his commitment to serving the residents of Sarnia-Lambton as well as the larger Ontario community throughout this time. He was awarded the Lieutenant Governor's Community Volunteer Award in the Fall of 2014 for outstanding contributions to volunteerism in Ontario and hosted, along with the City of Sarnia and the County of Lambton, the very successful 2015 Annual Meeting of the Cities Initiative.

Events and Webinars

<p>Mayors for Monarchs</p> <p>Does your municipality already have rain gardens? Are you thinking about adding more native plants to your community?</p> <p>This webinar will present best practices that municipalities are taking to help the threatened Monarch Butterfly population by planning demonstration gardens, partnering with schools, and more. The webinar will provide mayors and municipal staff with the information necessary to take action on monarchs. Read more at www.nwf.org/MayorsMonarchPledge.</p>	<p>December 15th, 3pm CST / 4pm EDT</p> <p>Click here to register</p>
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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

