



## MAKING WAVES

March 17, 2015

### ***Register for the 2015 Annual Meeting!***

The conference website is now online and registration is open! Panel topics will include the Cities Initiative's Nutrient Action Collaborative, Shoreline Restoration and Economic Activity and, Oil Transportation. Cities Initiative pilot projects and student collaborative projects will also be featured. [Please click here to access the conference website and registration page.](#) The 2015 Annual Meeting and Conference will take place June 17-19 in Sarnia-Lambton County, ON. Register now to take advantage of our early-bird special! We look forward to seeing many of you in June.

### ***Congratulations to Member Cities on Brownfield Planning Grants!***

The U.S. EPA announced the selection of 20 communities in 16 states receiving approximately \$4 million in Brownfields Area-Wide Planning (AWP) grants for cleanup and reuse of Brownfields sites to revitalize communities and strengthen local economies. Modeled after New York State's Brownfields Opportunity Area (BOA) Program and part of the Partnership for Sustainable Communities—an interagency partnership between the U.S. Department of Transportation, Department of Housing and Urban Development and EPA-- these grants recognize that successful, sustained community revitalization occurs when neighborhood stakeholders, local governments and the private sector are provided tools to develop a shared plan for redevelopment and community-wide improvement. The following Cities Initiative member cities were recipients: The City of Duluth, MN; The Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee; The City of Racine, WI; and The City of Rochester, NY. For more information on the grant recipients please click [here.](#)

### ***New Webinar Series Begins This Week***

Please join us for our newest series, **Integrated Water Management in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin.** This series will serve as a forum for discussion on integrated water management and the barriers cities need to overcome, as well as provide municipalities with practical tools and resources to evaluate and improve water management strategies. This series will be suitable for municipal staff with responsibilities in water, environment, sustainability, engineering, and planning, and will run from March to October 2015. See below for registration links. All webinars take place at 10am Central / 11 am Eastern.

March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Introduction to Integrated Water Management ( <a href="#">register</a> )
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	Discussion on Integrated Water Management ( <a href="#">register</a> )
April 15 <sup>th</sup>	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments and Green Infrastructure Initiatives to Enhance Stormwater Management and Watershed Planning ( <a href="#">register</a> )
September 16 <sup>th</sup>	Achieving Habitat Benefits and Community Resilience from Buyout Properties (registration to come)
October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Advancing Integrated Water Management (registration to come)

[Learn more](#) about the Cities Initiative Integrated Water Management Webinar Series.



### ***2015 World Uranium Symposium***

The Cities Initiative staff would like to draw attention to the 2015 World Uranium Symposium, to be held April 14-16 in Quebec City. The symposium joins scientists and community organizations around questions about the future of nuclear power. Attendees and presenters will examine issues relating to uranium and science, the environment, governance, public health, ethics, economic issues, and human rights. Learn more about the symposium [here](#).

### ***New Proposed Great Lakes Protection Act 2015***

The Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has recently introduced the Great Lakes Protection Act of 2015, after taking into consideration comments from stakeholders since the introduction of a 2013 act. The proposed Act includes a stronger focus on nutrients and algal blooms, climate change, and wetlands protection. The Act also includes the creation of a Great Lakes Guardian Council to provide a forum for Great Lakes Ministers, municipal representatives, representatives of First Nations and Métis communities, and representatives from conservation authorities, environmental organizations, the scientific community, industrial, agricultural, recreational and tourism sectors and others, to identify Great Lakes priorities for action, propose projects, discuss potential financial measures and partnerships, and help to facilitate information sharing and discuss matters related to setting targets, development of initiatives and inter-jurisdictional agreements. A public comment period is open until April 19, 2015 on the Act. For more information, click [here](#).

### ***End of Municipal Climate Adaptation Webinar Series – Thank you!***

Thank you to the many municipal staff members that participated in the most recent MARS Webinar Series, “Municipal Climate Adaptation in the Great Lakes Region.” For more information on Adaptation Planning in the areas of Government Regulation; Vulnerable Populations; Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater; Energy and Transportation Networks; Shorelines; and other areas, please visit our website [here](#).

### ***Membership***

Please join the 114 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.