



MAKING WAVES

April 15th, 2015

National Energy Board Launches Pipeline Incident Map

The National Energy Board (NEB) of Canada on released Monday an interactive map that shows all spills, explosions, and injuries on pipeline routes in Canada over the past eight years. This is a step forward in transparency for the Board, although there are missing details on the context, response and cleanup related to many of the mapped incidents. [Click here](#) to access the map.

Wisconsin Scrubbing Away Microbeads

On Tuesday, April 14, Wisconsin lawmakers approved a bill to ban microbeads in personal care products. The bill awaits signature from Governor Scott Walker in order to go into effect. The states of Minnesota, Michigan, and New York, and the province of Ontario, are also in the process of evaluating bans on the contaminant. Microbeads, the tiny plastics commonly found in toothpaste and facial scrubs, are small enough to bypass wastewater treatment plants and end up in the Great Lakes, where they add to pollution levels and can harm aquatic species. So far, Illinois is the only Great Lakes state or province to officially ban microbeads, where all products containing the pollutants will be off the shelves by 2019.

Earth Day is Wednesday, April 22nd

Next Wednesday, April 22nd, is Earth Day – look for Earth Day tweets from the Cities Initiative (@GLSLCities) and share this Great Lakes video with your followers: <http://goo.gl/cnylgs>. Is your municipality holding any events or programs? Let us know via Twitter or by emailing Laura Bretheim, laura.bretheim@glslcities.org – images are especially appreciated!

Register for the 2015 Annual Meeting! Early Bird Deadline is April 30th

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, ending on April 30th! We look forward to seeing many of you in June.

Ontario joins Cap and Trade Regime

On Monday, April 13th, Ontario Premier Kathleen Wynne signed an agreement to join Quebec and California in a cap-and-trade system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A cap-and-trade system allows companies to either cap their greenhouse gas emissions or buy credits from companies that have reduced emissions. It may also offer municipalities with significant emission reductions to trade their emission credits in the carbon market. The system is meant to accelerate carbon emission



reductions while providing flexibility for large emitters. Ontario’s cap and trade regime is expected to include:

- A cap on the amount of pollution allowed to be released in each sector of the economy.
- A long-term plan to join the largest cap-and-trade market, the Western Climate Initiative, which includes Quebec and California.
- Proceeds from the carbon market will be reinvested in projects that reduce emissions.
- A process to reward companies that work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Further details on how the system will work will be developed through this year. For more information see, [click here](#).

“Sustaining America’s Cities: The role business can play” Webinar

Join current and former sustainability directors of Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Boston for this hour-long webinar on Tuesday, April 21st from 1-2 pm Eastern. This webinar, hosted by GreenBiz, will highlight lessons learned from the challenges of creating sustainable cities and address ways that businesses and cities can work together for sustainability. Register [here](#).

Resource Highlight: Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative

Phragmites australis, the invasive reed common in many parts of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Region, continues to be a species of concern for municipalities. The Great Lakes Phragmites Collaborative website provides excellent resources for Phragmites identification, removal, and research. Visit the website [here](#).

Integrated Water Management Webinar Series Resumes Fall 2015

Our latest webinar series, **Integrated Water Management in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin**, serves 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. The series began in March and will resume after a summer break. All webinars take place at 10am Central / 11 am Eastern.

September 16 th	Achieving Habitat Benefits and Community Resilience from Buyout Properties (Register Here)
October 14 th	Advancing Integrated Water Management (Register Here)

[Learn more about the Cities Initiative Integrated Water Management Webinar Series and watch previous sessions by clicking 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.