

# Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award



The world's largest source of surface freshwater is in peril and needs leadership to protect it. The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is a bi-national coalition of mayors and other local officials that works actively with federal, state, provincial, tribal and first nation governments to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River.

While large cities often have more resources to act, small cities – with populations of under 100,000 – often do not. The Wege Small Cities Sustainability Best Practices Award program awards \$5,000 to one small Cities Initiative member city in the U.S. or Canada working to protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence and improve the quality of the water resource for future generations. This award was originated by the host of the Cities Initiative 2007 annual meeting, the City of Grand Rapids, with support from the Wege Foundation. The Cities Initiative, in partnership with the Wege Foundation, is proud to continue the tradition of this annual award to encourage environmental stewardship and recognize effort and results.

## **What**

Cities with populations under 100,000 are encouraged to submit a sustainable and meaningful project for consideration for an award that balances economic, social, and environmental aspects within the community that could be used as a best practice in other cities.

## **How**

Small cities are encouraged to submit a 500-word description of a new or existing project that clearly delineates triple bottom line aspects (**economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship**) and the resulting community impact on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water resources. Include a cover sheet describing why the project should be considered for the award and what the community will do with the associated \$5,000 grant award.

## **When**

Submittals are due electronically by May 15, 2018. Submittals will be reviewed and an award winner selected and announced at the 2018 Annual Conference in Ajax, Ontario. The award winner will be expected to return to the Annual Conference the following year with a report on their use of the award monies. This will ensure accountability, development of best practices, and education on triple bottom line strategies that can be used by any city in development of sustainable best practices within their communities.

## **Submittal Guidelines:**

- 1.** Prepare a 500-word description of a new or existing project that clearly delineates triple bottom line aspects (**economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship**) and the resulting community impact on Great Lakes-St. Lawrence water resources. The program must be one that is **currently** operating.
- 2.** You may select as many programs within your city as you wish to nominate, but a separate submittal must be completed for each program you submit.
- 3.** Include a cover sheet describing why the project should be considered for the award and what the community will do with the associated \$5,000 grant award.
- 4.** Electronic submissions in PDF format are required.
- 5.** Provide your contact information, phone and email.
- 6.** Submittals are due by May 15, 2018.

## **Send submissions electronically to:**

Melissa Soline at [melissa.soline@glslicities.org](mailto:melissa.soline@glslicities.org) with the subject line **2018 Wege Award**.

## **Timeline:**

February 15, 2018	Call for submissions
May 15, 2018	Submissions due
June 7, 2018	Winner selected
June 13, 2018	Award presented in Ajax, ON

## **Questions:**

For more information, contact Melissa Soline at 312.201.4518 or [melissa.soline@glslicities.org](mailto:melissa.soline@glslicities.org).