

Transportation, land use and cities: Revisiting the Michigan Climate Action Plan

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Moderated by Mike Beaulac, Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment

PRESENTATION ABSTRACTS

Michigan's Green Communities Challenge

The Michigan Green Communities Challenge was developed by the Michigan Municipal League in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy Systems in 2009. Since its origination, the Michigan Townships Association and the Michigan Association of Counties have joined as full participating partners in the project.

The Challenge is basically a six-step template for Michigan communities to follow in efforts to adopt energy efficiency and conservation practices. The Challenge is web-based and includes information and links to resources designed to assist local units of government in completing the Challenge. The Challenge can be accessed at <http://greenchallenge.mml.org>. Step 1 of the Challenge requires the community's governing body to adopt a resolution promoting energy efficiency and renewable energy practices. The remaining five steps are tailored to an individual community's goals. In particular, Step 5 of the Challenge outlines over 30 different types of projects that a community may be interested in pursuing. Over 70 Michigan communities have enrolled in the Challenge. It has been recognized nationally by the Department of Energy as a positive effort in Michigan's plan to develop sustainable communities.

Grand Rapids movement toward sustainability

The City of Grand Rapids' Sustainability Plan shows a commitment to: sustainable development, such as the construction of LEED-certified buildings, innovative uses of energy, renewable energy development, promotion of public transportation, waste elimination, resource conservation, job creation, increased education attainment, and pedestrian and bicycle access. Key targets have been set to reduce fossil fuels consumption and Green House Gas emissions. In 2005, Mayor George Heartwell pledged that more than 20% of the city's power would come from renewable sources by 2008. Grand Rapids was successful in reducing energy consumption by more than 10% through the use of technology like LED lighting, and conservation. After hitting the target before 2008, the city is now committed to 100% renewable energy by 2020. City has recently completed its greenhouse gas emission inventory, as part of its Energy Efficiency and Conservation Strategy and is revamping its Sustainability Plan into Version 2.0. with specific targets, outcomes, and sustainability indicators. Grand Rapids was recently selected as finalist for the national 3rd annual Siemens Sustainable Community Awards. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC): "The finalists were selected based on their outstanding efforts to achieve complementary economic, environmental and social goals, as well as to improve the overall quality of life within their communities."

<http://www.uschamber.com/bclc/sustainablecommunity>

Smart growth in Michigan

Abstract to come

SPEAKER BIOSKETCHES

Sue Jeffers, Michigan Municipal League

Sue A. Jeffers is the Associate General Counsel for the Michigan Municipal League in Ann Arbor. In 2007, Sue developed and became the director of the League's Municipal Litigation Center with the intent to assist communities as they appear as litigants in the state's trial courts and tribunals. In 2009, she developed the Michigan Green Communities Challenge in collaboration with the Bureau of Energy

Systems. She came to the League in 1998 after being in general practice in Mount Pleasant, Michigan for nearly 20 years, including 5 years as city attorney. Sue received her law degree in 1980 from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois *summa cum laude*

Haris Alibasic, Office of Energy and Sustainability, City of Grand Rapids

Haris manages Grand Rapids' Office of Energy and Sustainability, State and Federal Legislative affairs, Renewable Energy projects, and Neighborhood Enterprise Zones (NEZ). He is a member of International City/County Management Association and Michigan Municipal League. He represents the City of Grand Rapids at Grand Valley Metro Council Legislative Committee.

Haris taught international business, management and public management classes at Davenport University. He also taught Metropolitan Administration and Politics, and Policy Analysis at Grand Valley State University graduate program. Haris studied for the B.S. in Economics at Sarajevo University; earned Bachelor of Business Administration in International Business and Marketing at Grand Valley State University; Master of Public Administration at Grand Valley State University. Haris is a Ph.D. candidate in Public Policy and Administration at Walden University.

Wayne Beyea, Land Policy Institute, MSU

Wayne Beyea is Associate Director, Citizen Education, Land Policy Institute, and Statewide Coordinator, Michigan Citizen Planner. Wayne provides leadership in delivering outreach and training programs for planning officials. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Urban Planning from MSU, a Master of Public Administration degree with a concentration in Community Development and Growth Management from the University of Maine, and a Juris Doctor Degree from MSU College of Law with a concentration in Environmental Law.