

## **Non-governmental organizations Green Tier Legacy Communities 2015 Annual Report**

1000 Friends of Wisconsin (1000 Friends), the League of Wisconsin Municipalities (LWM), the Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS), the Wisconsin Energy Conservation Corporation (WECC) and the Municipal Environmental Group (Wastewater) are nongovernmental organization (NGO) signatories to the Green Tier Legacy Communities (GTLC) Charter. The NGOs collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the municipal signatories to advance the goals of the Charter in a variety of ways in 2015. This report highlights the major activities of these organizations and a brief description of how those activities advanced the goals of the charter and contributed to the progress of individual communities.

### **Management and Coordination**

**Executive Committee** – The Executive Committee meets monthly to provide overall management of the Charter. Specific activities include:

- Recommending and preparing agendas and materials for regular quarterly meetings.
- Recruiting speakers for quarterly meetings.
- Conducting research and following through on program and policy suggestions made at quarterly meetings.
- Recruiting new local governments and local government associations to the charter.
- Providing information to communities between meetings.
- Resolving issues related to the governance of the Charter (amendments to the Charter, recommend specific actions and policies for the Steering Committee.)
- Seeking grants to fund projects of charter participants and helping coordinate joint applications for grants.
- Organizing meeting and round table discussions with relevant organizations or individuals.
- Advocating before DNR water division staff for bolder implementation of the water resources management component of the GTLC charter.
- Conducting surveys of GTLC members and reporting findings to the members.

**The Executive Committee includes representatives from the following NGO's:**

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

League of Wisconsin Municipalities

WECC

Wisconsin Counties Association

### **Special Projects**

1000 Friends of Wisconsin

- Hosted and administered website dedicated to GTLC: <http://greentiercommunities.org/>.
- Helped recruit new municipal members.
- Worked with DNR to provide agendas, speakers, and program content to GTLC quarterly meetings.
- Helped recruit monthly webinar speakers.
- Worked with Executive Committee to conduct survey of GTLC communities.

#### League of Wisconsin Municipalities

- Wrote and published article in League's monthly magazine updating the membership about the GTLC charter and who to contact if interested in participating in the charter.
- Helped recruit new municipal members.
- Helped recruit monthly webinar speakers.
- Worked with Executive Committee to support GTLC.
- Participated in meetings designed to educate counties and other cities about benefits of PACE and participating in a PACE intergovernmental commission.

#### WECC

- Led Energy Task Force. Coordinated implementation of energy use benchmarking and Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) as the priorities for shared development for 2015-2016.
- Worked with Executive Committee to support GTLC communities, focusing on energy issues in individual communities.
- Worked with DNR to provide agendas and program content to GTLC quarterly meetings.
- Helped create Joint PACE commission and educate GTLC and counties about benefits of such a commission.

#### COWS

- Provided webinar services for quarterly meetings.
- Shared information with municipalities in hopes of recruiting them.
- Applied for funding through the Wisconsin Partnership Program that would enhance COWS' relationship to GTLC and provide funding to work on health policies in GTLC's. We continue to seek funding for this project, regardless of funding through WPP.
- Increased connections between GTLC and the RE-AMP Network via the Local Solutions Working Group. We will continue to seek opportunities to make connections between these networks, and hope that GTLC leaders can serve as resources for REAMP best practices, and that GTLC can learn from the actions of others in the Network.
- Shared written resources and learning opportunities with staff for distribution to the group.

#### Wisconsin Counties Association

- Helped recruit new county members.
- Helped recruit monthly webinar speakers.
- Worked with Executive Committee to support GTLC.
- Helped create Joint PACE commission and educate counties about benefits of GTLC and PACE.

Prepared by Curt Witynski, Assistant Director, League of Wisconsin Municipalities June, 2016