

Michigan Green Communities Challenge

A collaborative effort between the local and state government



How Birds See the World!!!



How birds see the world

Far Side, Gary Larson

Looking at everyday activities from a different perspective!



Why Green?

- Increased Efficiencies
- Eliminating/Reducing Liabilities
- Being Proactive not Reactive
- Education and Outreach
- Improved – “bottom line”
- Strengthens Constituent Relations
- Protecting/Enhancing our resources



Resistance to Change

- Unaware of true costs associated with current practices
- Many facilities are predisposed to control technologies (proper disposal)
- Potential impact on product/service quality
- Worker habits
- Skepticism regarding new and/or unproven technologies
- “If it ain't broke, don't fix it.”
- “It's not my job.”



Green Communities Challenge

1. Pass resolution indicating that your governing board wants to participate.
2. Complete the Intention and Progress Survey
3. Once the Michigan Green Communities Challenge receives your community's survey form and resolution, you are enrolled in the Challenge.



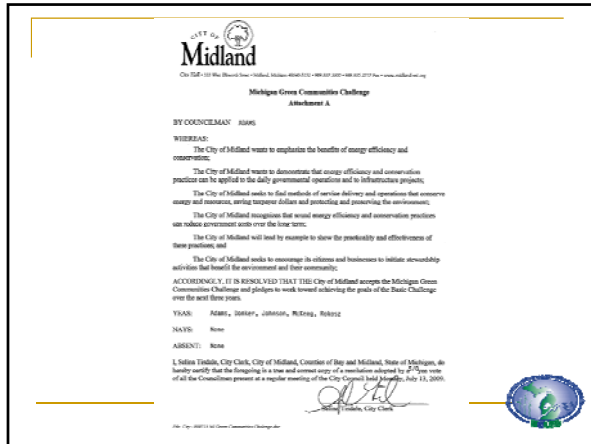
Green Communities Challenge

Basic Challenge (Planning & Organizing)

Step 1: Obtain Organizational Support (Resolution)

Passage of the support resolution by the governing body is the first essential step toward achieving the Basic Challenge. This resolution acts as a commitment or pledge of working toward the objectives as identified within the MI Green Communities Challenge.





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Step 2. Assign Responsibility

Clearly defined roles for the community's management team, this may include a Sustainability Manager, Energy Manager, or other similar title.

Optional: Establish an advisory commission (or "Green Team") composed of local residents and business representatives to advise and assist the local governing board on policies and practices dealing with the environment and energy conservation.




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Step 3. Collect all Energy Data for Organization or Municipal Operations

Collection of critical data is an important aspect of preparing an effective strategy. It allows for establishing a baseline for future analysis of energy reduction efforts, this also allows municipalities to benchmark themselves against similar sized municipal entities.




Rebuild Michigan

- Promotes/assists energy efficiency project implementation in buildings
- Established in 1998
- Served more than 550 clients
 - Public schools
 - Colleges
 - Universities
 - Public Housing Authorities
 - Local Governments



What to Look for?

- Heating, Ventilating, & Air-Conditioning (HVAC)
- Lighting
- Domestic Hot Water
- Temperature Control
- Water Management
- Building Envelope
- Other equipment – (i.e. pop machines, drinking fountains, air compressors, pools, kitchen freezers/refrigerators, washers/dryers, plug loads, elevator)




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Step 4. Assess Situation & Identify Gaps

After collection of data, a clearer picture of the community's status becomes available. This presents an opportunity to establish priorities, identify low hanging fruit (projects easily completed at little or no cost), and also where gaps may exist.

Once gaps have been identified in their operations, they can begin to address them through planning and eventual implementation.



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Step 5. Develop Goals and Activities - Planning for the Future

Goals and activities should be evaluated and selected. Measurable outcomes should be stated so that progress and achievement can be monitored.

Special note: Communities applying for funds under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program should evaluate the goals and activities listed in Attachment C to determine if such activities qualify as Eligible Activities under the EECBG Strategy.



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Step 6. Measure Performance and Quantify Results

Evaluate the progress made by including formal review processes that compare the outcomes with the projected goals. The evaluation results and information gathered will assist in creating new goals, identifying best practices, and setting new performance goals.

Celebrate your accomplishments with your community.



Green Communities Challenge

Benefits to Your Community

Free technical assistance to any MI municipality

Energy efficiency and conservation goals and metrics

Public recognition and technical information & assistance network

Information exchange through workshops, e-mail, and Internet



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