

Non-governmental organizations Green Tier Legacy Communities 2016 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 2016. 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

Center on Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)

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 choose topics and recruit monthly webinar speakers.
- Served on Communications Committee to improve and expand communications between communities and both the GTLC Executive Committee and the NGOs.
- Will participate in Project Team meetings and serve as liaison and communication coordinator for the Wisconsin Partnership Program grant that will provide funding to work on health policies in Green Tier Legacy 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.
- Served on the GTLC communications committee.
- Served on Joint PACE Commission Board.

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.
- Served as program manager for PACE Wisconsin.

COWS

- ☐ Shared information with municipalities in hopes of recruiting them.
- ☐ Successfully applied for funding through the Wisconsin Partnership Program that will enhance COWS' relationship to GTLC and provide funding to work on health policies in GTLC's over the next five years.

- ☐ Increased connections between GTLC and the RE-AMP Network via the Local Solutions Working Group.
- Worked with Executive Committee to support GTLC.
- Served on the Communication Task Force focused on how to improve communications between communities, between the communities and the Executive Committee, and between NGOs.
- ☐ 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.
- Worked proactively with PACE Wisconsin to educate counties and other interested parties.
- Will participate in Project Team meetings and is the fiscal agent for the Wisconsin Partnership Program grant to provide funding for health policies in GTLC.
- www.pacewi.org

Prepared by Deb Nemeth, Executive Director, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin June, 2017