

From: Danielle Beard <dbeard@migreencommunities.com>
Sent: Friday, May 3, 2024 7:25 AM
Cc: Michigan Green Communities Info <info@migreencommunities.com>
Subject: Congrats on your 2023 Gold MGC Challenge Certification!

Mayor and Council –

The City was once again recognized for our efforts in Sustainability with receiving the GOLD designation from Michigan Green Communities.

- Victor

Congratulations on reaching Gold certification in the MGC Challenge! And thank you for making this a record-breaking year for the MGC Challenge! This year, over 60 local governments were certified – 25% more than last year and more than ever before. It's clear that sustainability and climate resilience are a pressing issue for local governments in Michigan and we're thankful that we get to support your journeys. Thanks for being here! Please read below for details on our comms plan to announce your community's successes, a couple reminders, and other opportunities.

For you: Template Press Release & Challenge Logos

Attached to this email you'll find a template press release for you to customize to your needs and a set of generic MGC Challenge logos that you're welcome to use in promotional pieces.

Please note: we are still waiting for a couple more MGC Challenge entries to be submitted (there were some technical difficulties outside of a few communities' control) so we should have exact numbers on the number of bronze/silver/gold/platinum certifications by early next week and I will email that to you for the template press release.

Coming Up Next:

- The MGC program plans to send out a press release on or near May 20 announcing the results of this year's Challenge participation. You are welcome to send your own press release at any time, you may get a little more traction if it comes out around the same time as the MGC program's press release. We will send you a note the day before the program's press release goes out.
- Personalized graphics are in the process of being made for each community. We had record participation this year, so please be patient as we try to get those to everyone in the next couple of weeks!
- We will also send you an Excel document with all your responses from this year's Challenge and any other responses from 2021 and/or 2022 if you participated in those years as well.

We want you: MGC Steering Committee Vacancies

We currently have four vacancies on the MGC steering committee for local governments to fill. Current steering committee local government representatives include: the City of Grand Rapids, the Village of Mackinaw City, Williamstown Township, and the City of Kalamazoo. We aim for representation from across Michigan and of local government type (city, village, township, county). We currently lack representation on the steering committee by counties and by local governments in the UP, southeast Michigan, and northwest Michigan. Even if your local government does not fill those representation needs, still reach out if you are interested! **Please reply to this email by May 31 if you are interested.** The steering committee meets again on June 10 and you're welcome to join to see if it's something that you'd like to commit to before making the commitment!

MI Healthy Climate Conference, May 16 & 17 in Lansing – only a few days left to register, and spots are limited!

In case you haven't already registered for the MI Healthy Climate Conference using your **two free registrations** as an MGC Challenge participant, the deadline is May 8 to register. So far, at least 700 people have registered for the second annual statewide climate conference hosted by EGLE. Use the code **"Green-Group"** for up to two free registrations when you check out. Be sure to select the government rate, only use the code for two registrations, and please don't share this code with anyone else! Conference website here: <https://egle.idloom.events/MI-Climate-Conference-2024>.

Silver and Gold communities, you are now eligible to participate in the Catalyst Leadership Circle (CLC)!

The CLC is a peer networking group that aims to connect Michigan local governments leading the state in sustainability. We meet every other month (usually virtually) to share resources, collectively troubleshoot challenges, and learn about new initiatives. Participation also enables you to join the [CLC Fellowship](#), a summer program that pairs you with a graduate student to complete a community-requested advanced sustainability project. To help kickoff this summer's CLC Fellowship, our next CLC convening is in-person, May 20th, 1-3pm at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. For more information on this convening and future events, look to your inboxes for the CLC resource email, sent every other week. Please contact Sarah Lee at sarle@umich.edu with any questions.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out using the contact information or the meeting sign up link in my email signature below.

Congrats again,

Danielle Beard

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She/Her/Hers

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