

City of Fitchburg

Committee or Commission Referral

Direct Referral Initiated by:
 Direct Referral Approved by:

Date Referred: **August 24, 2010** Ordinance Number:
 Date to Report Back: **September 28, 2010** Resolution Number: **R-82-10**

Sponsored by: Mayor Drafted by: Public Works

TITLE: A Resolution in support of the Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities

Background: This resolution proposes that the City of Fitchburg become a signatory to the Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities. The Legacy Communities program is a partnership of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, the Center on Wisconsin Strategy and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin. The program is intended to help voluntary charter municipalities conserve energy, water, and land and to develop cost-effective environmental strategies. Ultimately, the goal of Legacy Communities is to create a superior quality of life for their citizens. Charter municipalities are encouraged to pursue continuous improvement of strategies based on a point system developed by the program partners. City of Fitchburg staff provided input on the point system during development, and the City of Fitchburg is currently achieving many of the Green Tier points through the U.S. Mayor’s Climate Protection Agreement. Benefits of the Legacy Communities program include receiving assistance with environmental strategy development, networking with other Legacy Communities, and receiving access to state and federal funding secured by the program partners. As a Green Tier Charter signatory, the City of Fitchburg will be required to report annually to the Charter program partners. A memo, dated September 21, 2010, is attached to address a question on financial impact analysis for this resolution.

Order	Referred To	Staff Contact	Place on Agenda For	Action Taken On Referral
1	Resource Conservation Commission	Eilertson	September 20, 2010	Recommended Approval
2	Finance Committee	Roach	September 28, 2010	
3				
4				

Amendments:



MEMO

CITY OF FITCHBURG DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

5520 LACY ROAD
FITCHBURG WI 53711
(608) 270-4260
FAX: (608) 270-4275

To:	Finance Committee Tony Roach, City Administrator, Nancy Solberg, Finance Director, and Paul Woodard, Director of Public Works / City Engineer
From:	Rick Eilertson, Environmental Engineer
Date:	September 21, 2010
Subject:	Financial Impact Analysis of R-82-10 – A Resolution in Support of the Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities

This memo was prepared to provide information to fulfill a request for a financial impact analysis of Resolution R-82-10.

Minimum Annual Costs

An accurate financial impact analysis is difficult for this subject since this would be a first-of-its kind green charter; however, based on the 5 requirements for Municipal signatories (Section VI. 3. (A) through (E)), I would say we are already fulfilling the first four requirements and the only task we're not currently doing is (E) the annual report to the Organizational Signatories. If the report is set up similar to other annual reports required by DNR, I'd estimate a range of 4 to 12 hours per year of staff time to complete the report, which comes to a cost range of \$120 to \$840 per year. In talking with Jeremy Balousek, Dane County Stormwater Engineer, he mentioned that for the Clear Waters Initiative Green Tier Charter (<http://dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cea/environmental/participants/clearwaters/>) that Dane County is participating in, DNR has actually been preparing the annual report for the member participants. Thus, it's possible that even the \$120 to \$840 per year may be overstating the required minimum costs of joining this effort.

Anticipated Annual or Long-Term Benefits

Based on discussions in preliminary meetings for this subject, the Organizational Signatories have indicated member communities may have the following benefits available to them:

1. Advance notice of state and federal funding opportunities,
2. Preferred status for state grant programs,
3. Free publicity of superior environmental performances demonstrated, and
4. Potential for reduced regulatory hurdles related to greenhouse gas emission reductions and water quality standards.

If Fitchburg starts the program and determines that the costs exceed the benefits gained, the only requirement for Fitchburg to pull out of the program is to send a written notice to the Organizational and Member Signatories.

Jay Allen, Mayor
Introduced By

Public Works Staff
Drafted By

Resource Conservation Commission
Committee

August 24, 2010
Date

RESOLUTION R-82-10

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE GREEN TIER CHARTER FOR LEGACY COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Center on Wisconsin Strategy, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and 1000 Friends of Wisconsin have created a Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities with the goals of:

1. Assisting municipalities in achieving superior environmental performance,
2. Improving the quality of life and economic vitality of communities, and
3. Helping municipalities and the DNR address water management issues in a holistic, watershed-based manner, and
4. Assisting municipalities in preparing, implementing and improving an overall watershed plan that integrates the municipality's full range of water resources issues, and
5. Assisting municipalities in preparing, implementing and improving over time a sustainability plan that reduces a municipality's impact on the environment, and
6. Facilitating access to state and federal funding for projects and activities related to this charter, and
7. Realizing taxpayer savings through reduced municipal expenditures on motor vehicle fuels and energy resulting from efficient development patterns, and
8. Helping municipalities comply with various water regulations in a more efficient, cost effective and flexible manner, and
9. Achieving other demonstrable and measureable environmental improvements beyond what is required by local, state, or federal law; and

WHEREAS, the Green Tier Legacy Communities Program is seeking partnerships with local units of government in furtherance of the Green Tier Charter goals; and

WHEREAS, the City will benefit from such a partnership with the Green Tier Legacy Communities Program; and

WHEREAS, the City is currently implementing several Green Tier Legacy Communities criteria and measures through the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement Action Items; and,

WHEREAS, taking concrete steps to protect earth's climate is in the common interest of every living thing in Fitchburg; and

WHEREAS, joining other municipalities in this effort may be the most effective way to meet the challenge of climate change; and

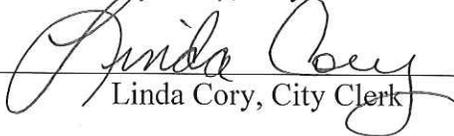
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg declares itself a signatory to the Green Tier Charter for Legacy Communities and authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk to sign the necessary documents on behalf of the Common Council;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that City staff are directed to assist with meeting the Charter goals and to submit an annual report to the Organizational Signatories; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon adoption, the City Clerk is hereby directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Wisconsin DNR and the Legacy Communities Green Tier Steering Committee.

Adopted by the Common Council of the City of Fitchburg this 28th day of September, 2010.

Approved By: 
Jay Allen, Mayor

Attested By: 
Linda Cory, City Clerk