



UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT CITIES PROGRAMME

MILWAUKEE 7 WATER COUNCIL GLOBAL COMPACT PROJECT

BRIEFING PAPER

Monday, April 20, 2009

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT

The Global Compact (www.unglobalcompact.org) is a strategic policy initiative for businesses committed to aligning their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles derived from:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
- The International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work
- The Rio Declaration on Environment and Development
- The United Nations Convention Against Corruption

The Global Compact asks companies to embrace, support and enact, within their sphere of influence, a set of core values in the areas of human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption:

Human Rights

- Principle 1: Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and
- Principle 2: make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

Labour Standards

- Principle 3: Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- Principle 4: the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;
- Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and
- Principle 6: the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

Environment

- Principle 7: Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;
- Principle 8: undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and
- Principle 9: encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

Anti-Corruption

- Principle 10: Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

Businesses can help ensure that markets, commerce, technology and finance advance in ways that benefit economies and societies everywhere. This ever-increasing understanding is reflected in the growth of the UN Global Compact, which today stands as the largest corporate citizenship and sustainability initiative in the world -- with over 5,500 corporate participants and stakeholders from over 130 countries.

Prominent Milwaukee Region Global Compact participants:

- Johnson Controls
- Manpower
- SABMiller

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT CITIES PROGRAMME

The Cities Programme (www.citiesprogramme.org) seeks to translate the overarching ten principles of the Global Compact into innovative, concrete and sustainable solutions. The Programme offers city leaders an alternative governance approach that seeks to find solutions to seemingly intractable urban issues by identifying, harnessing, focusing and applying existing local capacity.

Considering the premise that all cities contain the ability to resolve all significant challenges, the Cities Programme offers a framework for building constructive, all-sector task forces that cut across and includes business, government and civil society to produce practical responses in areas where single-sector initiatives have previously failed. The assumption of the Cities Programme is that positive change will occur when the local resources of business, government and civil society are brought together to interact between each other. This is a departure from the traditional, narrowly focused “silo” model where each group operates independently. Additionally, the Programme operates under the tenet that solutions do not come from the outside but instead are derived through local ideas, expertise and capacity.

Currently there are only 13 cities in the world, one of which is in the United States, that are designated as UN Global Compact Cities.

Current Cities Programme participants and projects:

Jamshedpur, India	‘Basti’ Water and Sanitation Project
Berlin, Germany	Berlin as a Health Care Centre
San Francisco, USA	Business Council on Climate Change (BC3)
Porto Alegre, Brazil	Housing
Jinan, China	Jinan Traffic Safety Project
Tshwane, South Africa	Rosslyn Strategic Development Forum
Le Havre, France	Sustainable Tourism
As-Salt, Jordan	The Environmental Street Project
Plock, Poland	The Grant Fund for Plock
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia	Urban Development
Melbourne, Australia	Utility Debt Spiral Project
Asker, Norway	Anti-corruption

Cities Programme Director (visiting Milwaukee April 27-28):

Paul James is Director of the UN Global Compact—Cities Programme. He is also Director of the Global Cities Institute and Professor of Globalization and Cultural Diversity at RMIT University (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology). He has delivered invited addresses in over twenty countries and is author or editor of nineteen books including most importantly, *Nation Formation* (Sage, 1996) and *Globalism, Nationalism, Tribalism* (Sage, 2006). His other recent books include *Global Matrix* (Pluto, 2005, with Tom Nairn) and the first eight volumes of a projected sixteen-volume series mapping the field of globalization (Sage, 2006, 2007). He has been an advisor to a number of agencies and governments including the Helsinki Process, the Canadian Prime Minister G20 Forum (2004), the National Economic Advisory Council of Malaysia, and the Commission on Reception, Truth and Reconciliation in East Timor. His work for the Papua New Guinea Minister for Community Development became the basis for their Integrated Community Development Policy (2004–09).

MILWAUKEE 7 WATER COUNCIL PROJECT DESCRIPTION

By becoming a member of the Cities Programme, it is the expectation of the Milwaukee region to begin to share our knowledge, expertise and innovations related to water technology with the rest of the world.

In turn, it is our hope that we can learn from our fellow members of the Cities Programme on how we can continue to improve our efforts to addressing other critical issues facing cities and regions across the world.

From the outset, the Water Council has strongly operated along the same principals of the Cities Programme which places a priority on creating linkages between all sectors of a city. The Water Council recognizes that meaningful results in water quality can only be achieved through a close collaboration between business, government and civic organizations that have a wide range of interests and missions.

PROJECT SUMMARY: To prioritize, implement, and monitor the activities of a number of integrated sub-projects that make a difference in water quality in the city of Milwaukee and the surrounding region.

DESIRED OUTCOMES:

1. To better understand the processes related to freshwater system dynamics.
2. To study the environment-environmental health continuum that links the health of freshwater environments with human population health.
3. To develop and create technologies that will create a sustainable freshwater infrastructure and supplies as well as improve human and environmental health.
4. To develop a policy and management program aimed at balancing the protection and utilization of freshwater.

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT AND ITS NECESSITY FOR CROSS-SECTOR PARTNERSHIP:

“Of all the social and natural resource crises we humans face, the water crisis is the one that lies at the heart of our survival and that of our planet Earth.”¹

At the heart of the UN Global Compact is the discovery of “innovative and sustainable solutions” to address some of the world’s most immediate and long-term pressing challenges. The members of the Global Compact are concerned and deeply committed to finding solutions to some extremely critical issues that have an impact on this planet and the well-being and survival of our world’s citizens.

The resolution of the inherent historic conflict between human productivity and existence along with the sustainability of the world’s ecosystem is one of the grand challenges of the 21st century. No challenge is more important or more pressing than that of the allocation of freshwater resources and keeping freshwater fresh.

¹ United Nations, “Water for People, Water for Life” (2003) United Nations World Water Development Report, Executive Summary.

As evidenced below, the availability of water that is both fresh and pure is one of the major issues facing the world today.

- Despite living on an aquatic planet, less than 0.34% is available freshwater.
- Hydrologists predict that by the year 2025 more than 50 nations and more than 2 billion people will face significant and life altering water shortages.
- Containing one-fifth of world's supply of surface freshwater and the greatest single freshwater resources on the planet, the Laurentian Great Lakes:
 - * Is home to over 40 million North Americans who live on these lakes, drink their waters, and enjoy their beauty.
 - * Supports a \$4 billion a year recreational and commercial fishing industry, a multi-billion dollar a year tourism economy, and a huge industrial sector.
 - * Contains over 10,000 miles of coastline and 6 quadrillion gallons of water – enough to cover the continental U.S. to a depth of 9.5 feet.

Yet despite this abundance, the Great Lakes ecosystem is under significant, system altering stress, and the region faces a host of water resource problems:

- historic chemical pollution from PCB's
- mercury and other contaminants
- contamination by pharmaceuticals and personal care products
- invasive species and exotic pathogens
- wide-spread beach closings and combined sewer overflows
- ground water overdraws and Great Lakes diversions

Water problems also require social, political and behavioral solutions. Advancing technology is only one piece of the issue at hand and is only as useful as our ability to implement it. The challenge we face both within the Milwaukee region and globally is to deal with this increasingly limited vital resource with a scientifically sound basis and a view to fairness and the sustainability of all life.

As its foundation for achieving water quality the Milwaukee 7 Water Council will incorporate as its four foundation pillars the goals set forth by the new University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's School of Freshwater Science:

- System Dynamics
- Health and Sustainability
- Freshwater and Technology
- Policy and Management

WATER QUALITY INITIATIVES:

Concerning actual projects, there is not any one initiative by itself that will be able to achieve the goal of water quality. Therefore, the Milwaukee 7 Water Council and its partners will address the following specific sub-projects.

I. AQUACULTURE

- Water Cleaning and Reuse

II. PHOSPHORUS

- Reduction/Elimination of Cladophora (Algae) in Lake Michigan
- Removing an Extremely High Percentage of Phosphorus from Sewage

III. STORMWATER

- Disinfecting Stormwater Runoff
- Removing Road Salt from Stormwater Runoff
- Disinfecting Stormwater Runoff
- Containing Stormwater on Built Sites

IV. SEWAGE TREATMENT

- Eliminating Inflow and Infiltration in Sewers
- Increasing the Efficiency of Wastewater Treatment

V. NEW TECHNOLOGIES

- Speeding the Adoption of New Technology by Municipalities

VI. CONTAMINANTS / WATER QUALITY

- Removing Radium from Groundwater
- Top Quality Drinking Water
- Distribute Real-Time Sensors in Water System to Detect Any Life Forms
- Develop and Install Grey Water System for Homes

VII. INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS FOR MULTIPLE WATER PROBLEMS

PROJECT PARTNERS:

It is widely recognized that to advance in our understanding of the complex problems that are at the heart of freshwater issues, a multi-disciplinary AND multi-organizational approach is critical including:

[Milwaukee 7 Water Council](#)

Higher Education:

- [University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee](#)
 - ◆ [Great Lakes WATER Institute](#)/pending School of Freshwater Sciences
 - ◆ [College of Engineering](#)
 - ◆ [College of Health Sciences](#) (pending School of Health)
- [Marquette University - College of Engineering](#)
- [Milwaukee School of Engineering](#)
- [University of Wisconsin-Madison](#)
- [University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute](#)
- [University of Wisconsin System](#)

Utilities:

- [Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewage District](#)
- [Milwaukee Water Works](#)
- [We Energies](#)

Local Governments:

- [City of Milwaukee](#)
- Milwaukee region local governments

Milwaukee region businesses including but not limited to:

- [Badger Meter](#)
- [A.O. Smith](#)
- [Veolia](#)
- [MillerCoors](#)
- [Rexnord/Falk Corp.](#)

Environmental organizations:

- [Nature Conservancy](#)
- [Sierra Club](#)
- [Urban Ecology Center](#)
- Other environmental organizations

State Government:

- [Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Administration](#)
- [Wisconsin Department of Commerce](#)

Federal Government:

- [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#)
- [U.S. Department of Agriculture](#)
- [U.S. Department of Commerce-National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)

Non-Governmental Organizations including but not limited to:

- [Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust](#)
- [Growing Power](#)