



# cei sphere

A Publication of the  
Center for Environmental Information

## Saving New York's North Coast Conference

May 5-6, 2005  
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Rochester, NY  
[www.ceinfo.org](http://www.ceinfo.org)

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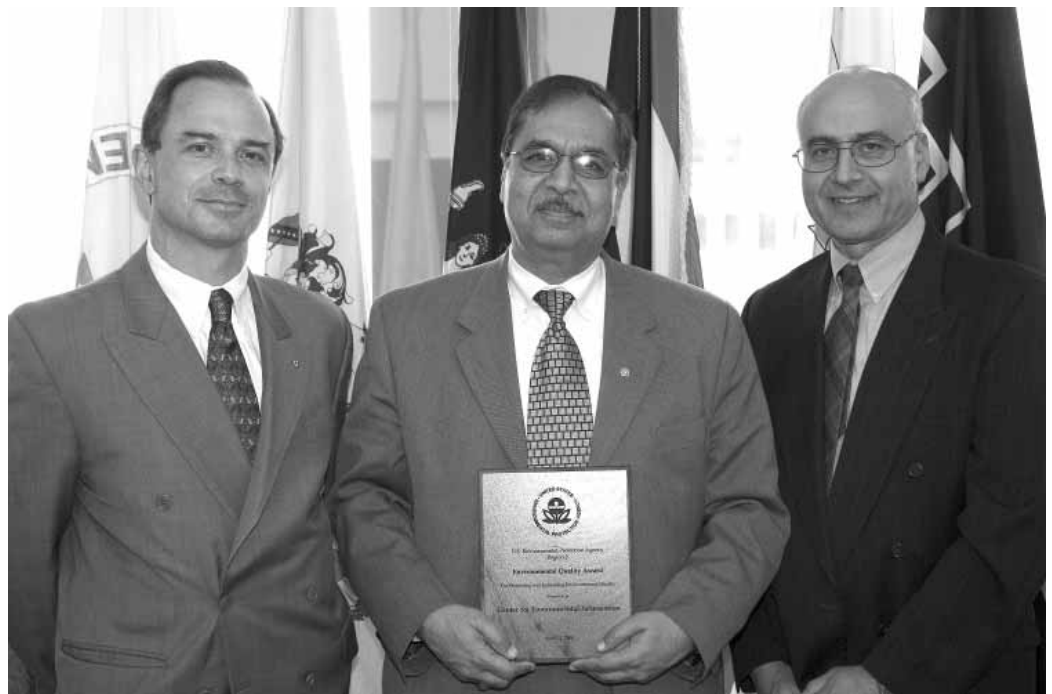
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## CEI Receives 2005 U.S. EPA Environmental Quality Award



*S. Ram Shrivastava, Chairman of CEI's Board of Directors, is flanked by New York City Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe (left) and Acting Deputy Regional Administrator George Pavlou (right).*

In celebration of the 35th anniversary of Earth Day, the Center for Environmental Information was honored by U.S. EPA Region 2 with its 2005 Environmental Quality Award. The Award was presented in New York on April 21 by Deputy Regional Administrator George Pavlou. **S. Ram Shrivastava**, chairman of CEI's Board of Directors, accepted the award on behalf of CEI.

The Environmental Quality Award is the highest recognition presented to the public by the Regional office. Each year EPA searches for those who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to protecting and enhancing environmental quality in the region, including community groups, individual citizens, environmental education and business organizations and members of

the news media. Also among this year's 25 award recipients from New York, New Jersey, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands and seven federally recognized Indian Nations, were **Rochester Mayor William Johnson** and the **Monroe County Department of Public Health**.

"These winners are environmental trail blazers who make our world a better place," said Deputy Regional Administrator Pavlou. "By being leaders and making local changes, the award recipients demonstrate that we can all have a positive impact on the health of our nation's air, land and water."

The CEI citation reads, "The Center for Environmental Information (CEI) of Rochester, New York, has achieved a reputation as a cred-

*Env. Award cont. on pg 4.*



## RGBN Case Study Project

As reported in the winter edition of the Sphere, RGBN is undertaking a project to collate case studies of good environmental business practices in the Rochester region.

We are making good progress on the initial stages of the project. We have developed a comprehensive data collation questionnaire for the case studies, which was developed in consultation with a broad range of people including representatives of NYS-DEC, US EPA, Empire State Development, Rochester Institute of Technology and the Center for Environmental Information.

Some important learning with respect to barriers to implementation and motivations for uptake of sustainable business practices are becoming apparent. For example, there is a significant barrier to the uptake of renewable energy systems in New York State due to net metering restrictions, standby tariffs and the bureaucracy involved in connecting to the grid. With respect to motiva-

tions for implementation of green business practices, a common link between case studies is that the businesses studied tend to incorporate environmental criteria into business-related decisions rather than focusing solely on improving their environmental performance. In addition, there are many other benefits associated with implementation of green business practices including cost savings, improved employee working conditions and increased productivity.

The case studies website should be up and running during this summer and the networking event will now be held in November 2005 (previously planned for June 2005). The case studies website will be linked to green business service providers. If you are a service provider or are a business with a good news story that you wish to share, please contact Lorna Midgelow at tel: 585 899 6822.

### RGBN is planning the following events for the coming months:

- May/June:** *Field Trip to Frito Lay Distribution Center – the first platinum LEED certified green building in Rochester*
- June:** *Meeting on Health and Safety Management Systems*
- July/August:** *CEI/RGBN Social Picnic*
- November:** *Green Business Networking Event*
- Check the website ([www.ceinfo.org](http://www.ceinfo.org)) for dates*

## CEI & CEI People In The News

RGBN Program Director Lorna Midgelow has submitted an opinion piece for publication in the Rochester Democrat & Chronicle, urging that the new Renaissance Center be designed from the start as a “green” building, qualifying for LEED design commendation, and saving both dollars and energy in the bargain.

Board Member Nabil Nasr, Director of RIT’s National Center for Re-Manufacturing and Resource Recovery, wrote an opinion piece, published April 11 in the Democrat & Chronicle, about the importance of strategies for recycling the mounting electronic waste that is creating toxic trash.

The CARE (Community Action for a Renewable Environment) Partnership that CEI is helping to spearhead with other organizations, agencies, businesses and local governments was the topic of a feature article by Corydon Ireland in the February 8 issue of the Democrat & Chronicle.

Board Member Liz Thorndike wrote an opinion piece, published February 16 in the Democrat & Chronicle, pointing out the local relevance of the Kyoto Treaty on global warming that was entering into effect that day. She noted that we can each contribute to reducing fossil fuel use through our purchasing decisions and other ways of reducing energy use and increasing energy efficiency.

Board Member James C. White had a letter on the same topic published the same day in the Fort Myers Press in Florida, where he resides in the winter.

EPA Regional Administrator Kathleen Callahan, in a Guest Essay published April 19 in the Democrat & Chronicle, describes why EPA has focused on reducing health and environmental risks in and around Rochester. She cites CEI as a community partner in this effort.

## Board of Directors Names Executive Director

Cindy Stachowski, formerly the executive director of the Tree Research and Education Endowment Fund (TREE Fund), has been appointed executive director of the Center for Environmental Information (CEI), effective June 1, 2005. She brings 13 years of executive experience with environmental education and programs, fundraising, management and administration, including prior service as chief operating officer of the National Tree Trust.

“Cindy’s successful experience as a seasoned entrepreneurial leader, and her management, fundraising and program and service delivery skills are highly suited to the needs of CEI. We are enthusiastic about her ability to carry forward our mission, programs, and services,” said S. Ram Shrivastava, chairman of CEI’s Board of Directors.

“I am a native of western New York. I have been fortunate to travel to forty eight states with my career and I can truly say there is no better place than New York. I hold close to my heart the wealth and diversity of natural resources and how passionate the people of New York are when it comes to protecting these resources,” said Stachowski.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Stachowski has held various leadership positions including chapter president of the International Society of Arboriculture, chairman of the Difficult Run Watershed Reforestation, chairman of the Fairfax County Metropolitan Community Forestry Network and chairman of the Fairfax County Arbor Day Program.

She is a graduate of the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry in Syracuse.

The Center for Environmental Information, founded in Rochester in 1974, seeks to advance public understanding of environmental issues and impacts. It works for environmental protection and sustainable use of New York’s Lake Ontario region, through partnership programs like the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI), and the Rochester Green Business Network (RGBN), and through environmental communication, education, and information services.



## Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative (LOCI) News

### Workshop On Watershed Collaboration Offers Choices

March 8, 2005. Members of the LOCI Steering Committee participated in a workshop to examine various models for ongoing collaboration, including optimal governance structures and decision-making processes to further the LOCI mission of restoration, remediation, protection, and sustainable use.

The workshop was led by Langdon Marsh, Senior Fellow at the National Center for Policy Consensus in Portland, Oregon and author of "Collaborative Watershed Solutions". Marsh is a former commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and of the Oregon Depart-

ment of Environmental Quality. At the workshop various models for watershed governance and decision making were presented. Materials were distributed about the Onondaga Lake Partnership and the Lake Champlain Basin Program. Presentations were made by Steve Lewandowski about the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Program and by Kevin Smith of the Tug Hill Commission. Lang Marsh talked about the New York City Watershed agreement and the special challenges facing that program.

The various models include different mixtures and roles for public agencies and private organizations, associations and

individuals. A major function of the Tug Hill Commission is technical assistance, facilitation, and a "circuit rider" system to aid small communities with tasks ranging from preparation of local ordinances to writing grant proposals. Small grants programs, educational programs, and planning, regulatory, and research functions were features of other programs.

The best structure and decision-making process for the ongoing LOCI partnership will be addressed by the Steering Committee at its next meeting in May.

### Researchers Identify Remediation Priorities

As part of a workshop held in Syracuse on March 18 to develop a research agenda for New York's participation in Great Lakes restoration, researchers from universities and agencies identified priorities for restoration and remediation of the Lake Ontario Coastal region.

Participants ranked the following projects on the coastal zone of Lake Ontario and its embayments as highest priority:

1. Long-term monitoring of the coastal zone and embayments.
2. Creating a rank order of sub-watersheds for remediation, based on such characteristics as nutrient loading, remedial action plan status, toxic discharges, land use, soil loss etc.
3. Segment analysis of sub-watersheds to identify location of pollution sources.
4. Development of a central location of literature, especially "grey" literature, pertaining to Lake Ontario coastal zone and embayments.
5. Quantification of natural resources through Geographic Information System (GIS). of the coastal and embayment areas.

The recommendations from this workshop, organized by **Dr. Joseph Makarewicz**, will be presented in more detail at the May 5-6 Lake Ontario conference being organized by CEI. They will also be incorporated in the workplan for the FY 2005 EPA grant for the LOCI program, that was secured by Congressman James Walsh.

### Students From Nazareth College Contribute To The LOCI Effort

Four students from Nazareth College have been conducting research for the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative as part of their Environmental Economics class. Dr. Joseph DaBoll-Lavoie, the course instructor, offers students the opportunity to conduct a service learning project as an alternative to writing a final term paper. Nazareth offers Service Learning to its students as a means to facilitate the integration of service with academic study that enhances student learning, addresses community interests and encourages civic responsibility. The students and the topics they are pursuing are:

**Angelina DePoint** and **John Zappia** are researching coastal property values and their importance to local communities

**Gary King** is researching the economic impact of boating and fishing on the local economy.

**Gertia Brown** is identifying NY communities and the number of people that utilize Lake Ontario as a drinking water supply.

Each of these topics are important for understanding the economic impact Lake Ontario has on local communities. Thank you all for your hard work!

### Thank You, Thank You

**New Brochures:** CEI would like to gratefully acknowledge the creative assistance provided by **Martino Flynn** for text and design of the new brochures describing CEI and the Rochester Green Business Network (RGBN). They will make their debut at the Lake Ontario conference with bright colors and updated information about CEI's programs, services, and membership.

**Pre-Owned Computer:** Special thanks to **Stantec** and **Michael Storonsky** for the contribution of a pre-owned computer and monitor. This will enable us to have a complete work station for interns and volunteers who assist in our office. Staff is especially grateful for the new addition that will make it possible for our voluntary staff to assist, without having to interrupt the flow of work in the office.

### Meet Tracy Hern

Tracy Hern is a native Rochesterian who has recently joined the CEI team as a volunteer. She graduated from University of Colorado two years ago and just arrived home from working in Madagascar on environmental, health, and sanitation issues facing the country. Tracy after attending the Sierra Club's Annual Earth Day Environmental Forum and learning about our volunteer needs. She is eager to be involved with environmental concerns facing the Rochester area.

We wish to thank the Daily Record for printing this issue of the Sphere

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## Community Foundation Provides Grant For CARE Program

Following upon its initial grant of \$2000 in 2004 to support the convening of the CARE collaboration for reducing toxic risks, the Rochester Area Community Foundation has provided an additional grant of \$3000 to support the necessary coordination and communication among the many community partners-- business, environmental, neighborhood, and educational groups and professional and local government agencies-- involved in preparing a grant application to EPA for funding of up to \$300,000 for the CARE program.

Evan Lowenstein of Green Village Consulting, together with CEI staff, will provide the services to undertake the grant preparation and submission on behalf of the collaboration.

CEI is grateful to the Community Foundation and to **Woody Greene**, Civic Engagement manager at the Foundation, for this important endorsement of our undertaking on behalf of the Greater Rochester community.

## CARE Collaboration Moves To Identify Area's Priority Issues

Additional partners have joined the Care collaboration since the initial meeting that CEI convened in November, 2004. The collaboration remains a network of individuals, organizations, businesses, academic, educational, professional and government affiliates brought together by the desire to improve Rochester's environment and the incentive of a potential EPA grant of up to \$300,000 to take voluntary actions to reduce risks from toxic substances.

EPA has provided data (1999) that show Rochester/Monroe County as having the highest per capita rate of toxic air emissions of any county in New York State. 56% are from mobile sources; 30% are cumulative emissions from many small area stationary sources; 14% are from large sources. Mobile air toxic emissions (a total of 6,210 tons

per year) are comparable to other New York counties with populations that are two to three times that of Monroe County.

The Working Group to prepare a proposal to EPA for voluntary actions to reduce risks from toxic substances is addressing issues that have been documented by assessments and surveys from sources such as the City of Rochester, Monroe County Health Department and the Center for Governmental Research. Lead in paint; various Rochester City School District initiatives, for example, replacement of polluting off-road equipment; education for small and medium sized-businesses about alternative energy and energy efficiency strategies; and a one-stop clearinghouse for information about toxic impacts and remedies are some of the actions being considered.

*Env. Award cont. from pg 1.*

ible, community-based forum for environmental information. It helped create the Rochester Green Business Network which brings together businesses, institutions and professionals that share a mutual concern for the environment, and promotes good environmental management in businesses throughout the area. CEI was a catalyst for Monroe County municipalities to implement "sensible salting" techniques for area roadways. CEI has also been a significant and indispensable partner in EPA's Rochester Community Initiative, and has contributed much to the Lake Ontario Coastal Initiative and the EPA-sponsored Community Action for Renewed Environment program, two key area environmental programs."

CEI thanks its Board of Directors, staff, members, and our many partners for helping to make our programs and services of value to the community, and for the part each of you has played in earning this recognition.

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