



Springfield, Illinois

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT

APR 27 2000

IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE

Executive Order

Number 7 (2000)

**Executive Order Establishing the
Green Illinois Communities Demonstration Program**

WHEREAS, since our air, land and water resources are linked together in sustaining all life and that integrated planning and management methods that recognize the interconnectedness of natural processes can provide better environmental protection;

WHEREAS, collaborative processes which bring together people, organizations, businesses and government can foster an improved understanding of environmental problems and development of common goals;

WHEREAS, community-based strategies that build common purpose, integrate environmental objectives with other local concerns and encourage greater public involvement can bring about creative environmental protection solutions;

WHEREAS, state environmental agencies can provide tools, information and support in assisting communities to develop integrated, cooperative environmental programs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT I, George Ryan, by virtue of the power vested in me as Governor, do hereby establish the Green Illinois Communities Demonstration Program to facilitate and support community-based environmental protection strategies that bring together diverse interests, address environmental problems in a holistic and collaborative manner and encourage interaction among and within government agencies.

1. The Illinois EPA, in cooperation with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Department of Agriculture, Illinois Department of Commerce and Community Affairs and the Illinois Waste Management and Research Center, is directed and authorized to enter into partnership agreements with three communities in the state that wish to build their capacity to protect the environment while enhancing community well-being.

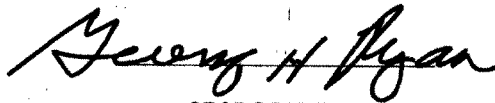
2. In selecting communities to participate in this demonstration program, the Illinois EPA shall ensure participation by communities of different sizes and characteristics. The program shall, to the greatest extent practicable, advance the following broad principles of sustainability: restoring critical ecosystems; achieving a cleaner, healthier environment; protecting and enhancing wildlife habitat and natural areas; using energy, water and other resources efficiently; reducing reliance on non-renewable resources;

expanding environmental awareness and creating quality, prosperous communities. For the purposes of this program, the term "community" can mean one or more local governments, a neighborhood within a large city, an appropriately-scaled watershed or ecosystem, or some other specific geographic area with which people identify or share common interests.

3. To qualify for participation in the Green Illinois Communities Demonstration Program, a community must commit to a strategic planning process that assesses local environmental strengths and weaknesses; identifies key environmental trends; creates a public vision and goals of what the community wants the local environment to be in the future; and develops strategies for realizing the environmental vision and goals. The planning process shall be designed to involve participation from broad segments of the community.

4. Upon selection for participation in the Green Illinois Communities Demonstration Program, the community shall receive the following benefits: financial support to facilitate planning and outreach-related programs, technical support in identifying and assessing community environmental conditions; timely notice, priority consideration and expedited review for state funding initiatives; technical, networking and peer-to-peer informational assistance; and assistance in seeking and leveraging federal and private sector funding sources.

5. Beginning September 1, 2001, and each year thereafter, Illinois EPA shall provide to the Governor a report regarding successful and unsuccessful elements of this demonstration program, including recommendations for executive action to modify or repeal the program. Illinois EPA shall also prepare a compendium of innovative environmental protection strategies developed by the demonstration communities that can serve as models for other communities in the state.



GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor

April 27, 2000

FILED
INDEX DEPARTMENT
APR 27 2000
IN THE OFFICE OF
SECRETARY OF STATE