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Dozens of Michigan Environmental Groups Come Together on Four Key Priorities and Accompanying Web Site

Print publication and website, www.greatmichigan.org, presents Michigan's top environmental concerns and recommends actions to state policy makers-

Lansing, MI — Over 40 environmental and conservation groups across the state are participating in the launch of the *Great Michigan* website which outlines key priorities for Michigan's environmental and economic health. Previously known as the *Environmental Briefing Book*, the compiled priorities present a unique resource for legislators, Governor Snyder, policy makers, organizations, the media, and the public. The website builds upon four priority issues (listed below) along with a developing list of other important environmental issues, recommended actions, and updates on associated legislation.

Completed after months of listening sessions and input from environmental, conservation, and public health groups, *Great Michigan* is a wide-ranging project to tackle some of the most pressing natural resource and public health issues facing Michigan.

“This effort to present the top priorities in the state has been a collaborative and involved process,” said James Clift, Policy Director for the Michigan Environmental Council. “It is one that has helped build connections between organizations, and furthers our shared goals of a healthier environment and economy.”

Erica Bloom, Program Manager for the Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund, added that, “*Great Michigan* continues the environmental community's long-standing tradition of informing policy makers on the immediate actions needed to address our collective concerns. I'm proud of the work these groups have come together to accomplish and present to both lawmakers and voters, in print and online.”

The [2011-2012 Environmental Priorities](#):

--Jumpstart Michigan's Economy with Clean Energy Innovation
Transition to a clean energy economy to save money and create jobs

--Protect Michigan Water from Unsafe Drilling
Require the oil and gas companies to assess the amount of water used and disclose the chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing

--Revitalize Michigan Cities and Towns with High Speed Rail
Provide matching state funds to receive federal funding for high speed rail

--Help Michigan Families Protect Their Children from Toxics
Develop a list of harmful chemicals found in children's products and require large manufacturers to disclose the chemicals in their products

“This new website allows groups from across the state to come together and present our concerns to policy makers in a unified way. Tracking the legislation on the website as it relates to all the additional priorities presented is a helpful tool for both organizations and policy makers,” said Ahmina Maxey from the East Michigan Environmental Action Council.

The PDF version of the Guidebook is available at: <http://www.greatmichigan.org/publications>

Organizations involved in the production of *Great Michigan*: -

Anglers of the AuSable; Arab Community Center for Economic and Social Services; Conservation Resource Alliance; Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice; Ducks Unlimited; Ecology Center; East Michigan Environmental Action Council; Friends of the Detroit River; Greater Grand Rapids Food System Council; Heart of the Lakes Center for Land Conservation Policy; Huron River Watershed Council; Kent County Conservation District; Leelanau Conservancy; Legacy Land Conservancy; Local Motion Green; Michigan Association of Railroad Passengers; Michigan Citizens for Water Conservation; Michigan Energy Options; Mid-Michigan Environmental Action Council; Michigan Environmental Council; Michigan Land Use Institute; Michigan League of Conservation Voters Education Fund; Michigan Natural Areas Council; Michigan Nature Association; Michigan Recycling Coalition; Muskegon Save Our Shoreline; National Wildlife Federation; Natural Resources Conservation Services; Northern Michigan Environmental Council; Save the Wild UP; Scenic Michigan; Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council; Trout Unlimited; Republicans for Environmental Protection; Sierra Club; Stewardship Network; Transportation Riders United; Voices for Earth Justice; West Michigan Environmental Action Council; West Michigan Strategic Alliance; and Zero Waste Detroit.

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