



# Neighborhood Environmental Partners



COMMUNITY | BUSINESS | LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Neighborhood Environmental Partners (NEP) program recognizes environmental projects and the partners who have worked together to improve the environment in their community. The goal of NEP is to promote environmental stewardship and education, while forming strong, long-lasting partnerships within the community. Businesses, schools, institutions, governmental and non-governmental organizations, and neighborhood groups can participate by completing neighborhood-partnering activities that include environmental improvements, environmental education, and/or environmental mentoring. Project participants can then apply for NEP recognition. All projects meeting the basic criteria of a community project are recognized, including all partner organizations.

Each year, the “Top Neighborhood Environmental Partners Award” is presented to one project that displays innovation, depth, project replicability, clear goals or objectives, strong partnering, and a distinct active learning component (not just volunteering). The 2016 Top Neighborhood Environmental Partners Award was presented to the Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore Series (Ottawa County) for their 2015 educational events. Project details can be found on the back of this brochure.

For more information on Neighborhood Environmental Partners, including the application and previous project summaries, visit [www.michigan.gov/deqnep](http://www.michigan.gov/deqnep) or contact Ms. Devan Dodge at the Office of Environmental Assistance at [dodged1@michigan.gov](mailto:dodged1@michigan.gov) or 517-284-6904.

# Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore

## 2016 Top Neighborhood Environmental Partner Award Winner



Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore is a collaboration of community organizations that have self-formed to raise sustainability awareness and literacy in the Holland lakeshore area. The group formed in 2014 to offer educational events on a variety of sustainability topics that would appeal to a wide range of populated segments. The events are free to the public and all sessions are recorded or have PowerPoint slides available for community members who are unable to attend. In 2015, Living Sustainably Along the Lakeshore successfully offered seven events with assistance from over 50 endorsing partners.

### Project Goals:

- Raise sustainability awareness and literacy in area through free educational events
- Give tangible examples of ways to get involved in projects around the community and start making changes today in their own homes.

*"At each event they've had a great diversity of local experts who have first-hand knowledge on the subject being presented, which has brought out many colors and faucets of an issue. I'm always excited to see what they will plan next!"*

– Carolyn U., City of Holland Resident

### Project Partners:

