

May 15, 2024

EGLE director joins statewide climate conference leaders at May 15 tree planting in downtown Lansing

(LANSING, MI)—Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) director Phil Roos offered comments and helped plant trees at a special tree planting event on May 15 in downtown Lansing. Roos joined volunteers from EGLE’s MI Healthy Climate Corps to plant trees around the building to contribute to the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Trees Initiative. This regional initiative aims to plant 250 million trees in the region by 2033.

EGLE hosted the [MI Healthy Climate Conference](#) May 16 – 17 at the nearby Lansing Center. Director Roos was joined by Michigan Community Services Commission (MCSC) executive director, Virginia Holmes, who gave brief remarks and participated in the tree planting. EGLE’s Office of Climate and Energy is partnering with the MCSC to leverage state and federal investments to launch the MI Healthy Climate Corps, an innovative approach to advancing the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan. Other organizations participating in the tree planting include the City of Lansing Forestry Department and Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers (GSGP), which founded the Trees Initiative in 2023.

This year’s sold-out conference was designated as a Great Lakes Green Event, a GSGP program which encourages destination stewardship and environmentally beneficial practices for conferences and other events across the Great Lakes region. As a Great Lakes Green Event, EGLE has committed to reducing food waste, eliminating single-use plastics, and creating a positive footprint by supporting tree planting in the local community.

“Over the next decade, GSGP will work with the region’s states and provinces, federal governments, corporations, cities, and other institutions to achieve this goal,” said Mike Piskur, program director at GSGP. “Tree planting creates many benefits for the region’s environment, economy, and people. These benefits include carbon storage, water quality improvements, wildlife habitat, and public health. We applaud EGLE’s leadership and collaboration.”