



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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P. O. BOX 5431  
TRAVERSE CITY  
MICHIGAN, 49696  
WWW.MGCONLINE.ORG

## About the Consortium

The Michigan Green Consortium (MGC) is organized exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes, more specifically, to foster the general knowledge of sustainable practices and to promote the application of sound environmental stewardship through educational workshops, seminars, monthly networking events designed to raise awareness of green products, services and practices, and community-wide events that lessen the burden of government. MGC members share green values; conserving natural resources, eliminating dependence on fossil fuels, and reducing waste stream. Michigan Green Consortium is a 501c3 public charity.

### ECONOMIC EFFECT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ALREADY APPARENT IN NORTHERN MICHIGAN

It may not be apparent, in the midst of a deep freeze like the one we've been shivering through for the past few weeks, but Northern Michigan's winters are indeed becoming shorter and, surprise, warmer. The winter of 2015/2016 was the worst on record, for Michigan's ski resorts, and while the last couple of years have been somewhat better, a study published by the [Journal for Global](#)

[Environmental Change](#) in 2017 predicts that by 2050 we can expect our season of cold winter weather to be no more

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than half its current length. We can expect lakes not to freeze fully and snowfall to melt faster.

Although ski resorts, as long as they can afford the investment it will require, may have the option of extending their season, and offer warm-weather activities, other wintertime events will likely not have such an option. Ice fishing, snowmobiling and wintertime festivals draw people – and dollars – to our area. If the ice is unsafe, as is predicted, and the snow cover unsatisfactory, many other winter tourist dependent businesses may have to follow the lead of the big ski resorts and begin thinking about how to attract less seasonally motivated visitors.

Source: [Bridge: Michigan's nonpartisan, nonprofit news source](#)





## Featured Partner



Meet our available cats

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It is Cherryland's mission to: Provide a safe harbor for the animals entrusted to

us, as we strive to find them responsible, loving and permanent homes, while educating the public about humane values.

Cherryland Humane Society is a no-kill, nonprofit 501c3 entity, dependent upon donations, fund raising activities, estates, planned giving, memorials, and grants. Cherryland provides an emphatic ethic of care, considering and accommodating, as much as possible, the physical, emotional, behavioral, and social well-being of each animal from that individual animal's perspective; a helping ethic, supporting people so that they make good adoption choices that meet their specific circumstances, as well as helping people keep their companion animals by giving them the tools and resources to correct any issues that drive their desire to relinquish an animal; and a community ethic, fostering greater awareness and focus upon the role of various community institutions in creating solutions to the root causes of companion animal homelessness, neglect, cruelty and violence and thereby providing a sense of well-being for both people and animals. [www.CherrylandHumane.org](http://www.CherrylandHumane.org)

## NEW, GREEN, SUSTAINABLE FUTURE DESTINED FOR ICONIC TC BUILDING.



Traverse City's former City Hall is currently a shell of its former self. The historic building is in the process of being remodeled, and only those elements required for structural support now remain of what was once the interior, but Catalyst Development, who recently purchased the building, with the help of the engineering firm TowerPinkster of Kalamazoo, plans to bring the entire building into the twenty-first century, meeting and exceeding current building codes and adding energy efficiency and sustainability.

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## Upcoming Events

**SAT MAY 4** - Sara Hardy  
Farmers Market every  
Saturday , downtown TC  
7:30 am – 12:00 pm



**WEDS JUN 5** - Sara Hardy  
Farmers Market, every  
Wednesday, downtown  
TC 8:00 am – 12:00 pm



### RECYCLE SMART from GT RESOURCE RECOVERY

Household Hazardous  
Waste collections,  
RecycleSmart, (231) 941-  
5555 Dates to be  
announced soon



**SUN SEP 29** - Clean Up  
Green Up, hosted by  
Michigan Green  
Consortium,  
[www.cleanupgreenup.org](http://www.cleanupgreenup.org)  
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

If you are interested in  
volunteering at an  
event, or becoming a  
member of the Michigan  
Green Consortium,  
reach out to us at  
<https://mgconline.org/>

## CITY & UTILITY OFFICIALS SHOW DISCONTENT FOR COST OF CLEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE



Solar Array owned by Heritage Sustainable Energy, Traverse City, MI

Although Traverse City commissioners agreed in December 2016 to pursue powering 100 percent of its grid with renewable energy, it seems there are some second thoughts hampering swift pursuit of that ideal. Traverse City Light and Power officials are not keen about the added costs. TCL&P and city leaders are now leery of committing to a deal they had been negotiating with Heritage Energy, because it would oblige them to purchase power if Heritage expands its current solar array. Since zoning prohibition that once prevented such expansion has now been lifted, Heritage is now planning to do exactly that, and the price at which TCL&P are obliged to purchase is much higher than current market rate.

While the cost of solar power is anticipated to increase and the rate that Heritage proposes is flat – it will not increase with the market rate during the 20-year term of the contract, TCL&P officials still believe that contracting with a larger producer from the outset

will still prove more competitive over the long term. Small producers, like Heritage, are not able to compete with utility-scale producers.

TCL&P has 45 days in which to respond to the current offer, so the question will be revisited, hopefully with expanded cost estimates, in March.

Source: [Record Eagle](#)

### Board seats available



Michigan Green Consortium is eager to fill all remaining and vacant board seats as permitted by its Bylaws. If you are a like-minded individual who wishes to see local area residents and businesses living more sustainably, reach out to us and tell us why you'd like to serve. Send an email to [board@MGConline.org](mailto:board@MGConline.org), or check out the details here: <https://MGConline.org>