Our Mission
To accelerate the affordable and equitable implementation of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) throughout North America by supporting peer learning, innovation and collaboration among cities, counties and utilities.

Our Vision
Communities with thriving GSI systems that further social equity, public health, and climate resilience.

Our Values
Connection, Inspiration, Collaboration, Leadership, Community, Equity, Innovation
### By the Numbers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Member Cities</th>
<th>Individual Members</th>
<th>Peer Learning Circles</th>
<th>Total Grants Awarded to Date</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>356</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5 new member cities joined
We Escalated Our Focus on Equity

In addition to the extensive learning and powerful resources developed by members (*more below under “OUR IMPACT”), we committed to the following key equity priorities:

- **Speaking up** consistently about Equity in our work and outreach
- **Elevating the voices** of communities that have been marginalized or silenced
- **Continuing to learn about Equity** and apply our learning to our day-to-day and long-term efforts
- **Rigorously using Equity related data** in our policy and programming work

Our Peer Learning Structure Enables More Extensive Learning

This year, we replaced our annual member workgroups with longer-term Peer Learning Circles. This change will facilitate longer-lasting immersion in a specific topic area, enable work and learning to build from year to year, create more dedicated quality space for peer learning separate from project work, and help promote cross-topic collaboration. Our 6 new Peer Learning Circles are:

- Placing Equity at the Center
- Asset Management
- Funding & Financing
- Planning & Resilience
- Innovations in Design
- Maximizing GSI Performance
Our New LinkedIn Page Accelerates Connections and Builds Dialogue

Our new LinkedIn page provides a forum for dialogue about water management and GSI among municipal water leaders and the greater water community. Join the page for highlights from our members’ trailblazing work, new developments and innovative approaches in GSI, funding and partner opportunities, and climate resiliency news!

A New Partnership Elevates Our Members’ Work and Builds Their Networks

In early 2021, we launched a partnership with The Atlas to help expand opportunities for our members to connect with like-minded peers and share their pioneering GSI work with thousands of government officials nationwide. To encourage them to submit case studies that exemplify trailblazing projects, we launched our GSI Trailblazers campaign jointly with The Atlas. In May, three winners were selected for their innovative approaches to centering Equity within their work.
FINANCIALS

Annual Budget

$675,000

Funding Sources

- Kresge: 32%
- Summit: 24%
- Pisces: 14%
- Springpoint: 14%
- Other: 10%
- Dues: 7%

Expense Categories

- General Operations: 34%
- Innovation: 20%
- Communications: 19%
- Network Development: 14%
- Peer Learning: 13%
- Research: 10%
OUR IMPACT

Fostering Peer Learning to Advance GSI
(2020-21 Workgroups)

In 2020-21, we facilitated seven workgroups focused on enhancing member’s GSI knowledge and capacity through examination of best practices and challenges, exchange of information and resources, and collaboration to create better solutions faster. Highlights from the groups are below, with more detailed work accomplishments available here.

**Equity:**
Compiled an inventory of resources on distributional, procedural, and structural equity, equity metrics, anti-displacement, public health, workforce development, and community engagement. This group was also instrumental in creating several landmark reports through the Exchange’s Collaboration Grant Program that articulate key challenges and solutions to incorporating equity into GSI.

**Details and Specifications:**
Advanced members’ shared understanding of best practices for designing GSI systems. This group has also been active in curating a library of GSI design details, policies, and specifications.

**Funding and Financing:**
Investigated strategies for funding GSI implementation, economic instruments to support GSI investment, and the use of aggregators to support more efficient private sector engagement.
OUR IMPACT

Fostering Peer Learning to Advance GSI

(continued...)

Design Innovations:
Shared knowledge on cutting-edge design innovations that increase the ability for GSI to provide multiple benefits and integrate with other placemaking efforts in our communities.

Climate Change:
Explored ways GSI can contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation and evaluated how GSI designs can take into account climate change by exploring best practices for modeling, downscaling storm projections, and using data for prioritization.

GIS:
Identified and began compiling shared best practices for using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to support GSI implementation, site selection, prioritization, and evaluation.

Maintenance:
Advanced members’ shared understanding about common challenges and best practices in maintaining GSI.
Developing Resources
to Enhance the Work of Our Members & the Field

Our [Collaborative Grant Program](#) allows Exchange members to work jointly and share knowledge to improve the speed, cost, and effectiveness of local GSI programs. The Exchange has developed a number of unique practitioner-oriented resources through three past rounds of Collaborative Grants. Their purpose is to guide, inform, educate, and prepare our members and professionals field-wide in their efforts to advance GSI implementation. These include:

**GSI & Public Health: A National Guide**

A project to further the Green Infrastructure and Public Health Connection, which aims to:
1. define the connection between GSI and community public health priorities by developing common language and metrics and
2. strengthen the collaboration between water service providers and healthcare organizations.

A summary of best practices for GSI Modeling and Monitoring to jumpstart nascent GSI programs and help refine the direction of ongoing programs.

[Recommendations for GSI Monitoring](#)

[Recommendations for GSI Modeling](#)
Developing Resources to Enhance the Work of Our Members & the Field (continued...)

Funding & Financing Resource Guide

An inventory of GSI funding and financing options, including grants, investments, partnerships, and taxing.

Workforce Development: Program Case Studies and Funding Scan

A project to 1) highlight successful case studies that leverage GSI investments to achieve local workforce goals, and 2) identify funders interested in supporting community programs focused on GSI workforce development and related fundraising strategies.
Developing Resources to Enhance the Work of Our Members & the Field

(continued...)

GSI & Schoolyards: Barriers & Solutions Report

A project to identify common challenges and solutions to implementing GSI on school grounds that emphasize learning and play opportunities.

Netherlands Study Tour: video, case studies, presentation of lessons learned

Findings of an in-depth peer learning tour of the Netherlands - a global leader in urban water management - focused on GSI policy-making and project delivery.

GI Co-benefits Valuation Tool: Fact sheet, Valuation Tool, User Guide

A framework, methods, and values to support rapid screening-level analysis of the costs and benefits associated with a range of GI investments. Led by Earth Economics with input from the Exchange.
Developing Resources to Enhance the Work of Our Members & the Field (continued...)

The GSI Library

A scalable repository of Green Infrastructure details, specifications, and policies provided by members.

Equity Framework

A project to 1) articulate the Exchange's voice on equity in GSI, 2) highlight key challenges and solutions by members in incorporating equity into GSI work.

Equity Insights Report 1

Equity Insights Report 2
New Resources from Round 4 Due Out in December 2021

Round 4 of our Collaborative Grant Program funded the three projects that follow. The resources being developed under each of these projects will be released in the second half of 2021, so keep an eye out on our [website](#) and [LinkedIn page](#)!

**Equity Evaluation Framework ($55K):**
A framework for evaluating and measuring equity, grounded in guidance from community members, that makes a compelling case for equitable GSI and provides a user-friendly roadmap of standard metrics and tracking methods.

**Right-sizing Tool ($40K):**
A set of standards for GSI modeling and sizing that includes an organized inventory of strategies, equations, and tools to improve GSI designer capacity and accuracy.

**Asset Management Toolkit ($30K):**
A GSI Asset Management Resources Toolkit that includes case studies, example plans, and guidelines to support water professionals in establishing effective GSI Asset Management programs nationwide.

Round 5 Offers New Grant Opportunity Focused on Community Leaders

This year, the Exchange is offering a new grant opportunity under the Round 5 Collaborative Grant Program RFP. This funding will support members seeking to better align their GSI work with that of grassroots community leaders through projects, surveys, convenings, or other initiatives that sync municipal GI programs with community needs.
What Our Members Say About the Value of Membership

“Very valuable to be part of this community. Thank you for all you do!”
-Dana Sjostrom, City of Memphis

“The Exchange is a great informational resource and sounding board with peers.”
-Beth Dutton, Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority

“The Exchange has always done an excellent job of seeking and listening to feedback from its members - creating a true member-led and engaged community.”
-Kristina Hausmanis, City of Toronto

“[The Exchange] has been an incredible resource for enhancing our GI program.”
-Andy Szadko, City of Omaha

Participating in the network has helped members...

- Gain valuable knowledge & resources: 93.5%
- Develop leadership skills for working within their organization: 87%
- Solve an important problem faced in their program: 72%
- Make progress on addressing equity in their organization and community: 72% and 68%

90% of members made at least 1 NEW CONNECTION this past year

50% of members COLLABORATED with at least 1 and up to 10 other members this year
We consistently review and refine our strategies in response to member and field-level needs. In the year ahead, we will specifically prioritize the following three key activities:

1. We will continue to grow our membership - especially in underrepresented regions like the South.

2. We will continue to actively embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of our work and that of our members.

3. We will seek funds and partnerships to support the development of a “State of the GSI Field” report. This report aims to create a shared vision for the field investments needed to accelerate equitable implementation of GSI. Please contact Paula Conolly (paula@giexchange.org) if you have an interest in partnering on and supporting the development of this report.
Exchange members include public utilities, municipalities, cities and counties who are implementing infrastructure at scale. Whether your GSI program is entry-level or advanced, if GSI is a priority and you intend to channel time, staff and resources into pursuing its implementation, you will find that membership in the Exchange brings multiple benefits and opportunities that support and enhance your efforts.

**Check Out Our Complete Member List**
To see who else is an Exchange member from your region or nationwide, click [here](#) for a full member list.

**Want to Become a Member?**
If you are interested in joining the Exchange, you can visit the [membership page](#) on our website to review eligibility and participation requirements, and the steps for becoming a member. To get started, please complete our [membership application](#).

With questions, please reach out to Amelia Lord at [amelia@giexchange.org](mailto:amelia@giexchange.org).