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ADVOCATES**  
*pro bono publico*

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**Environmental Groups Announce New Sustaining Communities Campaign**

Madison, WI. —Midwest Environmental Advocates and Sierra Club announced today the beginning of the Sustaining Communities Campaign and the addition of Brent Denzin, a land-use attorney and Equal Justice Works Fellow, as the project’s lead attorney.

“The Sustaining Communities Campaign will provide a variety of services to local communities and governments so they can build and maintain a high quality of life in the places they call home,” according to Brent Denzin, attorney with Midwest Environmental Advocates.

The Sustaining Communities Campaign combines educating people about their legal rights, promoting public participation in local government decisions, maintaining a clean and open government process, and litigating cases where the community’s rights to clean air and water have been impaired by poorly planned development.

Among other goals, the organizations want to address the accelerating urban sprawl that is threatening the economic and environmental health of local communities. The groups specifically note the decline of once vibrant small town communities due to big-box developments, most notably Wal-Mart.

“We’re very excited to be sponsoring Brent Denzin’s Fellowship,” said Caryl Terrell, State Director of the Sierra Club – John Muir Chapter. “We believe the combination of education, organizing, and litigation works to protect Wisconsin’s special places.

The prestigious Equal Justice Works Fellowship is the largest fellowship program for public interest lawyers in the United States. Midwest Environmental Advocates has hosted three Equal Justice Works (formerly NAPIL) Fellows since 1999.

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## **FAST FACTS ABOUT THIS ISSUE**

- Midwest Environmental Advocates is Wisconsin's first and only non-profit, public interest environmental law center. Midwest Environmental Advocates provides legal representation and community organizing assistance to community groups who are working for clean air, clean water, and environmental justice. For more information, go to [www.midwestadvocates.org](http://www.midwestadvocates.org).
- The Sierra Club's members are more than 800,000 of your friends and neighbors. Inspired by nature, we work together to protect our communities and the planet. The Club is America's oldest, largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization. For more information about the Sierra Club-Great Waters Group, go to <http://wisconsin.sierraclub.org/gwg/>.
- Equal Justice Works (formerly NAPIL) Fellowships Program was launched in 1992 to address the shortage of attorneys working on behalf of traditionally under-served populations and causes in the United States and its territories. Recognizing that many obstacles prevent committed attorneys from practicing public interest law, including the shortage of entry-level jobs and daunting educational debts, the program provides financial and technical support to lawyers working on innovative and effective legal projects. The two-year Fellowship offer salary and generous loan repayment assistance; a national training and leadership development program; and other forms of support during the term of the Fellowship. The Fellowship Program is supported by a multi-million dollar matching grant from the Open Society Institute. For additional information, visit [www.equaljusticeworks.org](http://www.equaljusticeworks.org).