

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Ohio Lake Erie Basin Water Conservation Goals & Objectives

The starting point in the development of the Water Conservation Goals & Objectives to be adopted for Ohio's Lake Erie Basin will be the Regional (Basin-Wide) Water Conservation Goals & Objectives that have already been adopted for the Great Lakes Basin by the Compact Council and the Regional Body. These regional goals & objectives are reiterated in this preliminary draft for review and commentary.

Goals

1. Ensure the improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes Basin;
2. Protect and restore the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Great Lakes Basin;
3. Retain the quantity of surface water and ground water in the Great Lakes Basin;
4. Ensure the sustainable use of the waters of the Great Lakes Basin;
5. Promote the efficiency of use and the reduction of losses and waste of water.

Objectives

Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.

- Use adaptive programs that are goal-based, accountable and measurable.
- Develop and implement programs openly and collaboratively, including with local stakeholders, Tribes and First Nations, governments and the public.
- Prepare and maintain long-term water demand forecasts.
- Develop long-term strategies that incorporate water conservation and efficient water use.
- Review and build upon existing planning efforts by considering practices and experiences from other jurisdictions.

Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.

- Maximize water use efficiency and minimize waste of water.
- Promote appropriate innovative technology for water reuse.
- Conserve and manage existing water supplies to prevent or delay the demand for and development of additional supplies.
- Provide incentives to encourage efficient water use and conservation.
- Include water conservation and efficiency in the review of proposed new or increased uses.
- Promote investment in and maintenance of efficient water infrastructure and green infrastructure.

Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among State and Provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.

- Improve the measurement and evaluation of water conservation and water use efficiency.
- Encourage measures to monitor, account for, and minimize water loss.
- Track and report program progress and effectiveness.

Develop science, technology and research.

- Encourage the identification and sharing of innovative management practices and state of the art technologies.
- Encourage research, development and implementation of water use and efficiency and water conservation technologies.
- Seek a greater understanding of traditional knowledge and practices of Basin First Nations and Tribes.
- Strengthen scientific understanding of the linkages between water conservation practices and ecological responses.

Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.

- Ensure equitable public access to water conservation and efficiency tools and information.
- Inform, educate and increase awareness regarding water use, conservation and efficiency and the importance of water. Promote the cost-saving aspect of water conservation and efficiency for both short-term and long-term economic sustainability.
- Share conservation and efficiency experiences, including successes and lessons learned across the Basin.
- Enhance and contribute to regional information sharing.
- Encourage and increase training opportunities in collaboration with professional or other organizations in order to increase water conservation and efficiency practices and technological applications.
- Ensure that conservation programs are transparent and that information is readily available.
- Aid in the development and dissemination of sector-based best management practices and results achieved.
- Seek opportunities for the sharing of traditional knowledge and practices of Basin First Nations and Tribes.