

Wisconsin Water Use Efficiency and Conservation

Statement of Intent:

Wisconsin is developing water use efficiency and conservation program goals and objectives. The development of these goals and objectives is only one in a series of efforts underway in the Great Lakes States and Provinces to improve water conservation and efficiency throughout the Great Lakes Basin.

Wisconsin's water use efficiency and conservation goals and objectives will be general and broad in scope and are applicable to the portion of the State located within the Great Lakes Basin. The goals and objectives in themselves will not establish new programs or requirements. Instead, the goals and objectives will assist the State in developing environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation and efficiency policies and programs that are protective of public health and will help ensure the sustainable use of the Great Lakes.

The goals and objectives will improve accountability related to water use. While taking a holistic approach, the goals and objectives will recognize that a single management approach does not fit all waters, users, or agencies. And, the goals and objectives will be adaptive, allowing for improvements as information is gained, technology advances and conditions are changed.

Building upon this effort, Wisconsin will develop a water use efficiency and conservation plan including administrative rulemaking as required by Wisconsin's legislation adopting the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact.

Great Lakes Goals:

1. Ensuring improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources.
2. Protecting and restoring the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin.
3. Retaining the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin.
4. Ensuring sustainable use of waters of the Basin.
5. Promoting the efficiency of use and reducing losses and waste of water.

Wisconsin Mission:

Use only the water we need to protect our health, economy and environment by sustaining the quantity and quality of water for generations to come.

Wisconsin Adaptation of the Great Lakes Objectives:

- 1) **Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among State and Provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.** Understand the waters in the Basin, how the waters are used, and share the information in a uniform fashion.
 - a) Identify and map all streams, lakes, rivers, ponds, springs, wetlands and major groundwater systems including major recharge areas.

- b) Monitor water resources and water use patterns to identify and track regional trends.
 - c) Collect, analyze and report water use information from all user groups.
 - d) Develop predictive methods for evaluating how the waters in the basin may be used in a sustainable fashion.
 - e) Monitor implementation of best management practices.
 - f) Monitor the implementation of the sustainability practices.
 - g) Make information readily available to the public, including publishing the information on waters and water use on a State web site.
- 2) **Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.** Communicate how to most efficiently use the waters in the basin.
- a) Develop programs that promote the efficient use and conservation of water.
 - b) Develop best management practices.
 - c) Develop a mechanism to communicate the importance of water use efficiency and conservation practices with water users.
- 3) **Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.** Sustain the quantity and quality of waters of the basin.
- a) Develop administrative rules for new and increased uses and diversions as defined in the Compact.
 - b) Engage users and coordinate with agencies, tribal governments and other government officials.
 - c) Fund activities associated with understanding, communicating, planning, and promoting the waters in the basin.
 - d) Periodically review the status of the waters in the basin, how they are used, and the effectiveness of the management practices.
 - e) Develop a plan for improving sustainability of the quantity and quality of waters in the basin.
 - f) Develop a process for maintaining and improving the understanding, communicating, planning, and promoting the waters in the basin.
 - g) Develop administrative rules when necessary to ensure implementation of the plan.
 - h) Seek a greater understanding of tribal traditional knowledge and practices regarding the importance of water and its sustainable use.
- 4) **Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.** Promote improved understanding of the importance of water.
- a) Improve the public awareness of the importance of the waters in the basin.
 - b) Educate business on the value of the waters in the basin.
 - c) Educate government officials on the importance of the waters in the basin into the future.

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- d) Seek opportunities to share traditional knowledge and practices of Wisconsin tribes.
- 5) **Develop science, technology and research.** Develop innovative, timely approaches to address emerging water management issues.
- a) Encourage the development of water-related industries and technologies to position Wisconsin as a global industry leader.
 - b) Work with the Wisconsin Groundwater Coordinating Council to identify research and monitoring needs related to the interaction of groundwater and surface waters, characterizing groundwater resources, and strategies for managing and protecting groundwater.
 - c) Leverage the resources of Wisconsin's world-class research institutions to focus on problems affecting the human and natural communities of the Great Lakes.
 - d) Foster cooperation and sharing of resources and information among all federal, tribal, State and local agencies as well as with international partners.