

annex 2001



The Water Resource Protection and Conservation Toolkit

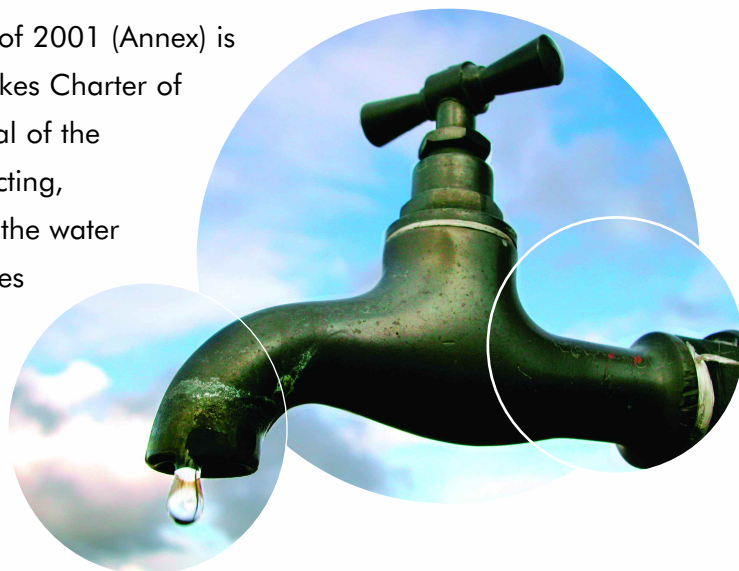
This is one of a series of 12 fact sheets developed by the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission with funding from the Joyce Foundation for the Water Resources Protection and Conservation Toolkit. The toolkit provides background on, and methods to protect and conserve local water resources. These tools are intended to help citizens and local officials to manage and protect water resources for future generations.

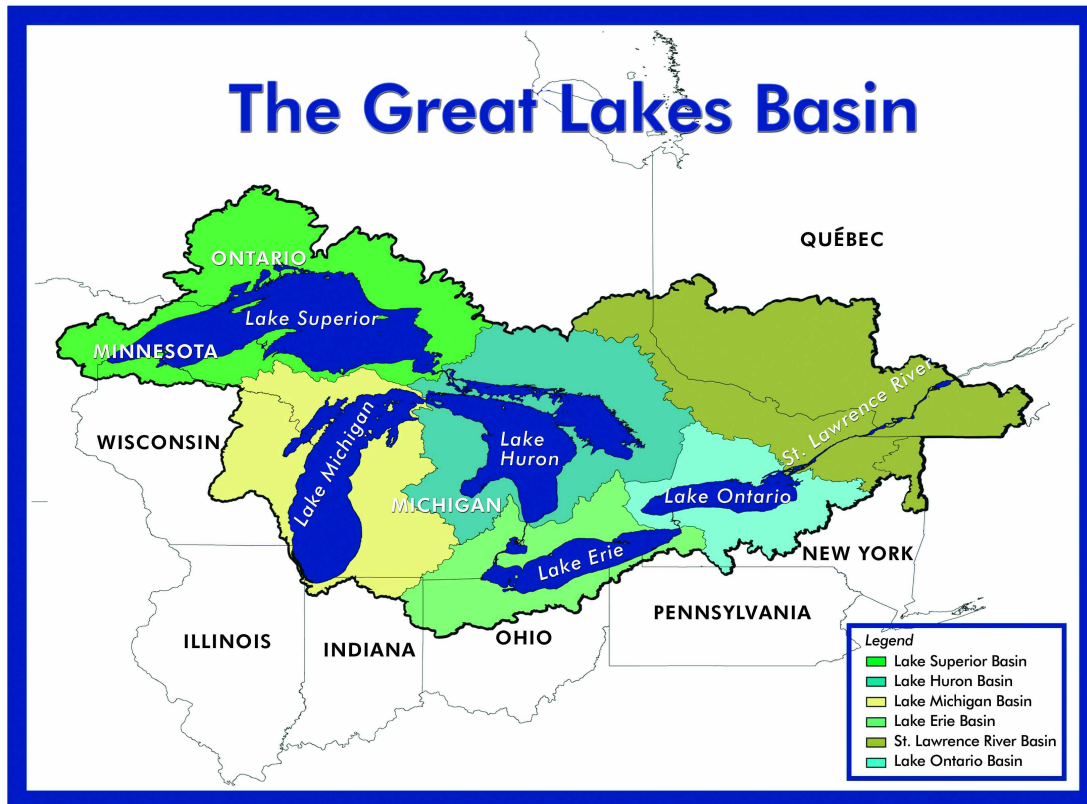
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A New Set of Agreements to Protect, Conserve, and Improve Great Lakes Waters

The Great Lakes Charter Annex of 2001 (Annex) is an amendment to the Great Lakes Charter of 1985 (Charter). The stated goal of the Annex is to provide a vision for protecting, conserving, restoring, and improving the water and water-dependent natural resources of the Great Lakes. It provides a new model for water resources management that will enhance the Great Lakes environment and will likely impact the environmental policy around the country and the world. The Annex emphasizes the need to focus more on the full water cycle, protecting and conserving existing water resources, and restoring and improving damaged water resources. Such focus ensures that water can support people and animal and plant life.

Local communities seeking new or increased withdrawals of Great Lakes water will have to comply with the Annex system once it is enacted. This will require greater attention to protecting, conserving, restoring, and improving water resources throughout the water cycle, not simply protecting water quality.





What is the Great Lakes Charter Annex?

The Annex outlines new principles and standards for a set of new agreements for reviewing all withdrawals of water from the Great Lakes, whether it is for use inside or outside the Great Lakes watershed.

More proposed detail was outlined in a set of draft Annex Implementation Agreements reviewed in Summer 2004. Under the draft language, a community cannot increase or receive a new water withdrawal from waters of the Great Lakes without meeting a new standard. Water withdrawals subject to the standard must incorporate the following:

- There is no reasonable water supply alternative.
- Withdrawals are limited to reasonable quantities for the proposed purposes.
- All Water Withdrawn from the Great Lakes Basin is returned to the Great Lakes Basin minus water consumed at a reasonable rate.
- The Withdrawal results in no significant individual or cumulative adverse impacts.
- The proposal incorporates environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures.
- The proposal incorporates Improvement to the Waters and Water Dependent Natural Resources of the Great Lakes Basin not required by law.
- The proposal complies with applicable State and federal laws as well as regional interstate and international agreements.

The Annex implementation agreements are currently under discussion by the Great Lakes Governors and Premiers and will be finalized soon. For more information, see www.cglg.org.

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