Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform

Team

Prosperity by nature.
The waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River region are globally important sources of renewable natural capital which, through proper stewardship, can ensure continued economic growth and wealth generation in perpetuity.

There are $12 TRILLION in assets under management that are being directed to Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing in the U.S.

Global sustainable investment now tops $30 TRILLION—up 68 percent since 2014 and tenfold since 2004.
Who is investing sustainably?

- **39%** of investors globally
- **56%** Ages 18-34
- **54%** $50m+ in assets


Who is making impact investments?

Impact investment has attracted a wide variety of investors, both individual and institutional, including:

- Fund Managers
- Development finance institutions
- Diversified financial institutions/banks
- Private foundations
- Pension funds and insurance companies
- Family Offices
- Individual investors
- NGOs
- Religious institutions

Source: Global Impact Investment Network.

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Harnessing impact investing to foster the long-term, sustainable management of our region’s waters.

Projects and strategies intended to deliver:

- Demonstrable impact and revitalize the region’s waters;
- Aimed to generate competitive, market-based financial returns.
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Development Supporters

Initial work was funded under a grant by the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service as part of on-going support to cross-border engagement via the U.S./Canada Forest Health & Innovation Summits. Development of the Platform is also supported by grants from the Fund for Lake Michigan and the Great Lakes Protection Fund.

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Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Goals

20% reduction of nutrient inputs to sensitive watersheds

10% increase in energy efficiency

10-15% reduction in emissions resulting from less energy use, sustainable forestry and nutrient management
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Diverse investment opportunities exist in each theme, and they will be integrated into investment strategies focused on the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region.

Platform Participation Requirements

- Develop project or plan for use of proceeds.
- Determine alignment with the Platform’s themes and ESG goals.
- Identify anticipated environmental outcomes.
- Commit to annually reporting environmental performance against metrics developed by The Nature Conservancy.
Environmental Metrics

• Gallons of Water Saved
• Kilowatts of Energy Saved
• Tons of Carbon Reduced/Stored
• Tons of Nutrients Reduced
• Forest and Farm Land—Certified Acres

Initial Platform Strategies

Real Assets
Example: Lyme St. Croix and Lyme Solon Springs
Developer: Lyme Timber in collaboration with The Conservation Fund

Green Lending
Example: Lake Erie Stormwater Improvements
Developer: Northeast Ohio Regional Sewage District
Initial Platform Strategies

Environmental Impact Bonds
Pilot: Baileys Mountain Biking Trail System (Ohio)
Collaboration with Quantified Ventures

Green Bonds
Pilot: Milwaukee Stormwater Management
Collaboration with Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Benefits to Participants

• Reputational
• Exposure to more – and more diversified – potential investors
• Track and collect data on project performance
• Potentially lower the cost of capital in the long run
• Technical assistance
• Capacity building grants
Delivery Partners

Organizations who commit to a longer-term collaboration beyond the participation of a single project on the Platform.

- Positive publicity
- Enroll and showcase projects
- Use the Platform’s reporting framework
- Use the Platform’s logo, brand and name
Participation in the Platform is free and voluntary.

To enroll your project or for more information:

www.greatlakesimpactinvestmentplatform.org

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