



# Building a Resilient Great Lakes Basin

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# What is the Great Lakes Commission?

- A public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955
- In 1968, Congress passed an act authorizing its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency.
- Ontario and Québec officially joined as associate members in 1999
- Allows its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and to reach consensus on and advocate for the region's priorities



# Who is the Great Lakes Commission?



- **Commissioners:**  
3-5 from each of the 10 states and provinces
- **Board of Directors:**  
1 from each state / province delegation
- **Chair: Todd Ambs,**  
Wisconsin
- **Professional Staff**

# GLC Actions on Climate Resilience



# Defining a Resilient Great Lakes Basin

GLC Definition:

*A resilient Great Lakes Basin is one in which communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, and the economy can withstand, adapt to, and recover from climate-related stressors and changing conditions to ensure equitable and inclusive social, economic, and environmental well-being across the Basin.*

# Draft Action Plan: Goals

- Individuals and Communities are healthy, thriving, and adapted to the effects of changing conditions and climate-related stressors.
- Buildings and infrastructure are safe and can withstand the effects of a changing conditions and climate-related stressors.
- Ecosystems are healthy throughout the Great Lakes Basin from changing conditions and climate-related stressors.
- Environmental and public services support economic activity and building resiliency.

# Goal: Individuals & Communities

- Recommended Actions:
  - The Great Lakes community shares ongoing projects to understand cumulative effort and gaps related to climate resilience
  - The Great Lakes community engages in active listening to incorporate local input to assess needs, concerns, and potential solutions. Connecting community concerns with elected officials.
- Recommended Outputs:
  - GLC establishes regular meetings for the Great Lakes community to share expertise and coordinate on activities related to climate resilience
  - Federal, state, provincial, and municipal authorities utilize a common forum (including a diverse cross-section of community members) to coordinate resilience efforts at a watershed level. The GLC could help facilitate this forum.

# Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

- Recommended Action:
  - Great Lakes community convenes forum to share best practices and identify opportunities for collaboration related to coastal resilience
- Recommended Output:
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study to identify coastal areas that could be vulnerable to climate-related stressors, identify range approaches to improve coastal resilience, establish a collaborative framework to support the effective management of coastal resources, and identify, select, and prioritize future coastal investments



# Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

- Recommended Action:
  - GLC advocates for investments in the Great Lakes Navigation System that increase system resilience to changing conditions
- Recommended Output:
  - The Great Lakes community develops climate resilience plan/roadmap for maritime transportation infrastructure

# Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

- Recommended Action:
  - GLC advocates for water infrastructure investments by the U.S. federal government that respond to and address climate stressors in the Great Lakes basin
- Recommended Output:
  - GLC develops an infrastructure blueprint for the Great Lakes basin to guide future investments

# Goal: Ecosystems

- Recommended Actions:
  - GLC convenes forum for the Great Lakes community to share experience and expertise related to ecosystem restoration, protection, and management
  - GLC advocates for ecosystem restoration, protection, and management investment by federal governments
- Recommended Outputs:
  - States and provinces share best practices on shoreline planning, development, and management on a basin-wide scale
  - GLC provides a resilient ecosystems blueprint to inform regional investments

# Goal: Economy

- Recommended Action:
  - Convene private sector, state, provincial, local & regional economic development entities to discuss/highlight opportunities related to the blue economy
- Recommended Output:
  - GLC engages state, provincial, local, and regional economic development entities to implement the *Action Plan for Growing the Great Lakes Blue Economy*

# Goal: Economy

- Recommended Actions:

- GLC evaluates and publicizes economic impact of resilient investments in the Great Lakes
- GLC identifies suitable case studies from the public and private sectors to showcase transferability and lessons learned
- GLC assesses regional clusters/regional development plans to identify best practices, identify innovative financing options for localities

- Recommended Outputs:

- GLC partners with Great Lakes community to highlight economic impact of new and existing resilient infrastructure investments
- GLC partners with Great Lakes community to flag areas of higher risk & connect businesses and local governments to assessments
- GLC partners with Great Lakes community to highlight new and existing climate resilience efforts via the Blue Accounting platform

# Additional Goals

- Capacity Building
  - Regional needs assessments, workshops, and blueprints
- Data & Evaluation
  - Interactive resource library
- Measuring Progress
  - Blue Accounting



**Thank you!**

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