

STATE OF OHIO
WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM
ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

December 8, 2015

This Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Annual Assessment is submitted by the State of Ohio to the Compact Council pursuant to the requirements contained in Section 4.2.2 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact (hereinafter “the Compact”) and to the Regional Body pursuant to the commitments made in Article 304 of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (hereinafter “the Agreement”).

1. Lead Agency. The lead agency for Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program is the Division of Soil & Water Resources (DS&WR) within the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR). The primary contact person is Michael Bailey, Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR (telephone: 614-265-6610, email: Michael.Bailey@dnr.state.oh.us). Additional contact people include Rodney Tornes, Deputy Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR (telephone: 614-265-6737, email: Rodney.Tornes@dnr.state.oh), and Michael Hallfrisch, Manager of the Water Inventory and Planning Program within the ODNR-DS&WR (telephone: 614-265-6745, email: Mike.Hallfrisch@dnr.state.oh.us).

2. Status of Ohio Goals & Objectives. Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency goals are those contained in Section 4.2.1 of the Compact. Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency objectives have been developed and can be viewed online at [water conservation goals & objectives](#).

3. Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Overview. Ohio’s implementing laws, regulations and policies are contained in the Compact, codified in §1522.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and its state implementing provisions, codified by ORC §§1522.02-21. ORC §1522.05 requires the Chief of the ODNR-DS&WR to adopt voluntary watershed-wide goals, objectives, and standards for water conservation and efficiency consistent with Section 4.2 of the Compact. ORC §1522.17 requires an applicant for a water withdrawal & consumptive use permit to submit a facility water conservation plan that, if it reasonably incorporates environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures applicable to the facility, will be considered to be in compliance with Section 4.11.3 of the Compact. All other elements of Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program are voluntary, except those that are authorized by pre-existing statutes, regulations, or programs. The only state program that provides for mandatory water use reductions is the Ohio Emergency Management Agency’s Emergency Operations Plan (authorized by ORC §5502.22), and then only when the governor declares a Level Four Drought Emergency. The Emergency Operations Plan-Drought Incident Annex can be viewed online at [Ohio Drought Incident Annex](#)).

Ohio’s program consists of education on the value of water conservation & efficiency and promotion of voluntary conservation activities. Such efforts are undertaken individually by state agencies pursuant to general education authorities and programs.

4. Consistency with Regional Objectives

Objective	Program Element
Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use	<p>An ODNR-DS&WR program to coordinate existing state & local government water conservation programs is being developed; existing state & local program documents are being compiled & assessed</p> <p>Water management plans have been completed for the Lake Erie Basin watersheds, including water resource inventory & assessment, analysis of water use trends and formulation of water use forecasts, and identification of potential water shortage areas</p> <p>Required best management practices for nutrient management to improve water quality in the western Lake Erie Basin have been adopted in Ohio statute, which can be viewed online at ORC §1511.10</p>
Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources	<p>A report has been prepared for the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and the ODNR-DS&WR by a study team from the Cleveland State University entitled “Water Resources Shaping Ohio’s Future: Water Efficiency Manual for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Facilities”. The full report can be viewed on the water conservation webpage on ODNR’s Compact website at CSU-Full Report; the Technical Report can be viewed at CSU-Technical Report</p> <p>An ODNR-DS&WR program is being developed to encourage water conservation and provide technical assistance to water users who want to voluntarily implement conservation practices</p>
Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state & provincial water conservation & efficiency programs	<p>Water use information for registered withdrawals continues to be collected, analyzed, and reported for the various categories of water use</p> <p>An ODNR-DS&WR program is being developed to improve the measurement & evaluation of water conservation practices and to identify & encourage programs to monitor, account for, and minimize water loss</p>
Develop science, technology, and research	<p>Opportunities for research & development related to water conservation & efficiency and the interaction between ground water & surface water resources are being investigated; modelling of impacts on aquifers resulting from the mining of industrial minerals are being undertaken</p> <p>Funding sources are being investigated to support research to develop state-of-the-art water conservation technologies and identify how recognized modeling programs can be used in water conservation planning</p>
Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users	<p>A water conservation & efficiency education program is being developed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Incorporate water conservation into the Ohio Project WET program by conducting training workshops for classroom teachers and non-formal educators; Ohio’s first Project WET Water Conservation Educator’s Workshop was conducted on October 9, 2015, with 40 educators participating, who are expected to reach 1,000 students in both classroom and non-formal settings in the coming year Conduct forums, & seminars/webinars for water users focused on voluntary conservation programs; an online forum for submitting input from water withdrawal facility managers is being developed Work to incorporate water conservation into existing classroom curricula by sponsoring a contest for school children to create a conservation & efficiency program logo for each water use category; potential sponsors are being sought Develop a website & printed material conveniently accessible to the public containing information on water conservation & efficiency; a water conservation webpage has been placed online on ODNR’s Compact website and can be viewed at Water Conservation Webpage

5. Program Implementation Timeline & Status. Ohio's Water Conservation & Efficiency Program, which does not include any mandatory conservation requirements on water users (except water withdrawal & consumptive use permittees), is currently being implemented as indicated, with further developments underway.