

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

The following information is submitted by the Province of Ontario to the Great Lakes Regional Body pursuant to the provisions in the Agreement Article 304 of the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement* (Agreement).

**1. Lead agencies and contact persons:**

Ling Mark, Director Land and Water Policy Branch Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change	Jason Travers, Director Natural Resources Conservation Policy Branch Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
--	---

**2. Status of Ontario's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives**

In 2012 Ontario adopted water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives that are consistent with the Basin-wide goals and objectives. The goals and objectives were developed based on stakeholder consultation and public comments received.

Ontario's goals are identical to the goals prescribed in the Agreement. Ontario's objectives are consistent with the regional objectives adopted for the Basin and have been tailored for Ontario to reflect the direction in the *Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010*, and to address stakeholder requests to emphasize the importance of taking ecological water needs into account in decision making, in keeping with the broader ecosystem protection and restoration goals of the Agreement.

Ontario's water conservation goals and objectives are available at: <http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/ontarios-water-conservation-and-efficiency-goals-objectives-and-programs>

**3. Ontario's water conservation and efficiency program overview**

Ontario's water conservation and efficiency program consists of a wide variety of statutes, programs and policies administered across nine ministries. See Appendix A for a detailed description of Ontario's fifty-four contributing water management and conservation statutes, programs and policies.

**4. Consistency with Regional Objectives**

Ontario's program is consistent with the regional objectives in the promotion of environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures (see table below and Appendix for details). The programs (statutes, programs and policies) below may link to more than one objective. See Table 1 and Appendix A.

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**Table 1: Regional Objectives and Ontario’s Water Conservation and Efficiency Program**

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES	LEGISLATIVE OR PROGRAM CITATION
<p>○ Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use.</p>	<p>Ontario is implementing a range of adaptive programs and conservation and efficiency strategies that consider long-term sustainable water use taking into account the importance of water to related ecosystems – such as through the assessment of water taking applications as described above, preparation of source protection plans to protect existing and future sources of drinking water in terms of both water quantity and quality, development of water budgets to estimate surface and groundwater supplies, water use and water quantity risk assessments, and action to protect the Great Lakes. The most relevant programs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Ontario Water Resources Act</i> and the <i>Water Taking and Transfer Regulation</i></li> <li>2. <i>Clean Water Act</i>, 2006 and associated Water Budget Studies</li> <li>3. <i>Conservation Authorities Act</i>, 1990</li> <li>4. <i>Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act</i>, 1990</li> <li>5. <i>Endangered Species Act</i>, 2007</li> <li>6. Great Lakes Wetland Conservation Action Plan</li> <li>7. <i>Greenbelt Act</i>, 2005 and Greenbelt Plan</li> <li>8. <i>Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act</i> and Plan</li> <li>9. Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy</li> <li>10. Biodiversity: It’s In Our Nature – Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity 2012-2020</li> <li>11. Ontario’s Great Lakes Strategy</li> <li>12. Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2014</li> <li>13. <i>Great Lakes Protection Act</i>, 2015</li> <li>14. Joint Strategic Plan for the Management of Great Lakes Fisheries</li> </ol>
<p>○ Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.</p>	<p>Ontario has a range of programs that manage water supply and demand to achieve efficient use and conservation of water resources — including promoting innovative water technologies through WaterTAP established under the Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, requiring water conservation plans by municipalities in the Oak Ridges Moraine and Lake Simcoe areas, promoting green infrastructure in municipal stormwater management systems and establishing water efficiency standards in Ontario’s Building Code,. The most relevant programs are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. <i>Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act</i>, 2010</li> <li>16. Financial Plans Regulation under the <i>Safe Drinking Water Act</i>, 2002</li> </ol>

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

<b>REGIONAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE OR PROGRAM CITATION</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>17. <i>Building Code Act</i>, 1992 and the Building Code</li> <li>18. <i>Green Energy Act</i>, 2009</li> <li>19. <i>Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act</i>, 2001 and Plan</li> <li>20. <i>Places to Grow Act</i>, 2005 and Growth Plans</li> <li>21. <i>Lake Simcoe Protection Act</i>, 2008 and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan</li> <li>22. <i>Planning Act</i>, 1990 and Provincial Policy Statement, 2014</li> <li>23. Municipal Stormwater Management Systems</li> <li>24. Ontario's Water Sector Strategy</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among State and Provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.</li> </ul>	<p>A range of Ontario programs support improved monitoring and standardized data reporting related to water supply, water use and conservation/ efficiency – for example, water use information for Permits To Take Water is collected, analyzed and reported, and watershed-based teams declare low water condition based upon provincial water monitoring and varying levels of conservation are required depending upon the low water conditions, The most relevant programs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25. Ontario Low Water Response</li> <li>26. Ontario Surface Water Monitoring</li> <li>27. Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network</li> <li>28. Water Use Reporting</li> <li>29. Spatial Data Infrastructure Unit</li> <li>30. Ontario's Provincial Fish Strategy: Fish For The Future</li> <li>31. The Ontario Geological Survey's Groundwater Mapping Program</li> <li>32. Climate Change Modelling and the Weather and Water Information Gateway</li> <li>33. Stream Water Quality Monitoring and the Multi-Watershed Nutrients Study</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Develop science, technology and research.</li> </ul>	<p>The following programs encourage science, technology and research to implement the best in water, wastewater and stormwater technology:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>34. Showcasing Water Innovation</li> <li>35. Ontario Clean Water Agency</li> <li>36. Walkerton Clean Water Centre</li> <li>37. Innovation Demonstration Fund</li> <li>38. Green Focus on Innovation and Technology</li> <li>39. Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence Water Round</li> <li>40. Investor Accelerator Fund</li> <li>41. Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs / University of Guelph Partnership Research Program</li> <li>42. New Directions Research Program</li> <li>43. Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre</li> </ul>

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

<b>REGIONAL OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>LEGISLATIVE OR PROGRAM CITATION</b>
	44. Climate Ready: Ontario’s Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 45. Quebec-Ontario Cooperation for Agri-Food Research Competition
○ Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.	Ontario is implementing a range of education programs and other programs that raise awareness of the importance of water and the value of conservation, efficiency and cost-saving, and which promote the sharing of best management practices, through the following programs:  46. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program 47. Water Efficiency Labelling 48. Best Management Practices 49. Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Program and Growing Forward 2 Cost-share Funding Assistance Program 50. Species at Risk Stewardship Fund 51. Invading Species Awareness Program 52. Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program 53. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture 54. Ontario Parks Water Conservation Initiatives

**5. Ontario’s water conservation and efficiency program implementation timeline and status**

Ontario’s water conservation and efficiency program is in place and is being implemented.

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**Appendix A**  
**Description of Ontario's Contributing Water Management and Conservation**  
**Statutes, Programs and Policies (as of November 1, 2015)**

The following statutes, programs and policies contribute to achieving Ontario's goals and objectives for water conservation and efficiency. The statutes, programs and policies may link to more than one goal or objective.

**OBJECTIVE 1: GUIDE PROGRAMS TOWARD LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE WATER USE AND MANAGEMENT INCLUDING TAKING ECOSYSTEM NEEDS FOR WATER INTO ACCOUNT**

To achieve this objective, Ontario has a range of adaptive programs and conservation and efficiency strategies that take into account the importance of water to related ecosystems, working with local stakeholders, and improving water demand forecasts, and water budgets.

**1. Ontario Water Resources Act and the Water Taking and Transfer Regulation**

Water takings in Ontario are governed by the Ontario Water Resources Act and the Water Taking and Transfer Regulation (Ontario Regulation 387/04). The purpose of the Ontario Water Resources Act is to provide for the conservation, protection and management of Ontario's waters and for their efficient and sustainable use, in order to promote Ontario's long-term environmental, social and economic well-being. [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90o40\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90o40_e.htm)

The Water Taking and Transfer Regulation under the Ontario Water Resources Act outlines matters that the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change must consider when considering an application for a Permit to Take Water. The Permit to Take Water Program provides for the fair sharing, conservation, and sustainable use of Ontario's waters. Any person taking more than a total of 50,000 litres of water in a day must first obtain a Permit to Take Water. Water taken for domestic uses, watering of livestock or poultry, or firefighting is exempted from the requirement to obtain a permit.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_040387\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_040387_e.htm)

The regulation of water taking is done in accordance with statute, policies, guidelines and the Permit to Take Water Manual ([http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/STD01\\_078778.html](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/resources/STD01_078778.html)). The Water Taking and Transfer Regulation specifically identifies the relevant matters that must be considered by the ministry when assessing water taking applications, including:

- the need to protect the natural functions of the ecosystem, including the natural variability of water flow or water levels, minimum stream flow, and habitat that depends on water flow or water levels;
- impact on groundwater and surface water quantity and quality;
- issues related to water availability, including low water conditions and the level of existing water use in the watershed;
- whether water conservation measures are being implemented or are proposed to be implemented in the use of water, in accordance with best water management standards and practices for the relevant sector if these are available; and

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

- demonstrated need for the water (reasonable prospect of use).

New or increased water takings by regulation-specified highly consumptive water users that remove water from “high use watersheds” are either prohibited or constrained during the low-flow period. The regulation-designated high use watersheds are shown on the Summer Low Flow Map and Average Annual Flow Map specified by the regulation.

Applicants for a Permit to Take Water must complete and submit a “Schedule 1 – Implementation of Water Conservation in accordance with Best Management Practices and Standards for the Relevant Sector”.

This Schedule contains a list of water conservation best management measures and practices for applicants. For the measures and practices checked off, applicants are expected to provide specific details about best management practices applied or to be applied and to cite any information used to determine water conservation and efficiency management practices and measures. Using the Schedule, applicants must declare the water conservation measures and practices they are currently implementing or anticipate implementing over the duration of the permit. They must state their goals for reducing the use, loss or waste of water or for increasing the efficiency of water use, e.g. litres per day per unit of production or litres per day per capita for the residential sector. Finally, applicants are asked to identify any approval or certification that they have received for implementing water conservation and efficiency measures best management practices e.g. Environmental Farm Plan, Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses.

In 2007, the Ontario government passed the Safeguarding and Sustaining Ontario’s Water Act, which amended the Ontario Water Resources Act to enable implementation of the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and other amendments to the Permit to Take Water program. [http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/statutes/english/2007/elaws\\_src\\_s07012\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/statutes/english/2007/elaws_src_s07012_e.htm)

The Ontario Water Resources Act was amended in 2010 to add a regulation-making authority to establish water efficiency standards or requirements for prescribed appliances and products.

## **2. Clean Water Act, 2006**

The purpose of the Clean Water Act, 2006 is to protect existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario in terms of both quality and quantity of water. It is part of the Ontario Government’s commitment to ensure the sustainability of clean, safe drinking water for all Ontarians and to implement the recommendations of the Walkerton Inquiry.

The Clean Water Act, 2006 requires that source protection committees, composed of representatives from the local watershed and supported by source protection authorities (generally conservation authorities), assess activities and contaminated sites that pose a risk to the quality and quantity of municipal drinking water sources, and prepare a plan to address these risks. This work includes identifying present and future sources of municipal groundwater and surface water, and areas where the sources of groundwater are being recharged. A component of the source protection plan is a water budget which involves evaluating how much water exists both at surface and below ground, how it moves, and how much water is withdrawn, to identify potential water shortages on a subwatershed scale. Part of this process will be looking at the long-term water supply and determining current or future water availability and ecological

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

needs. These water budget assessments consider drought climate conditions and the potential impact on supplies of drinking water. The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change is considering how the impacts of climate change can be considered.

If specific activities present significant risks to drinking water quantity, the source protection plan must include policies to address those risks. Under the Clean Water Act, 2006, source protection committees are provided with a wide range of policy tools (including prohibiting the activity or regulating it through risk management plans), provincial approvals, land use planning tools or non-regulatory approaches such as education and outreach and incentive programs. Such policies may include requirements around water conservation and/or water efficiency.

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has provided comprehensive support to municipalities and conservation authorities with source protection education and outreach policies, including those focused on water conservation. This includes a resource catalogue, a “Campaign in a Box” toolkit best practices webinars, a community of practice, individual advice, and social media promotion through the hashtag #SourceWaterON. The catalogue and toolkit can be found in Conservation Ontario’s website library at: <http://conservation-ontario.on.ca/library?view=category&id=66&limitstart=0>

#### Water Budget Studies

In collaboration with the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has developed a Guide for the Assessment of Hydrologic Effects of Climate Change in Ontario. In addition to the guide, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has developed an interactive web-based tool that allows users to select and download future climate change data sets (temperature and precipitation) for use within hydrologic models as outlined in the guide.

Under the Clean Water Act, source protection planning must also consider several federal and provincial Great Lakes agreements, including the Great Lakes Charter and the Great Lakes-St Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_06c22\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_06c22_e.htm)

### **3. Conservation Authorities Act, 1990**

The Conservation Authorities Act is administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. The Act provides a statutory framework for the creation, funding and the operation of conservation authorities; municipalities petition the Province to form or join a conservation authority to be able to participate in shared local resource management with other municipalities in a common watershed and in shared programs with the Ministry. As public sector organizations, conservation authorities implement programs that serve both the Ministry’s and the municipal interests. There are 36 conservation authorities in Ontario today.

The current shared program with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry for conservation authorities is related to public safety and natural hazard prevention and management. Program activities include flood and erosion control operations, flood forecasting and warning, ice management, as well as hazard prevention by input into municipal planning documents. Water-related natural hazard technical information can be developed in shoreline and watershed plans.

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

Additionally, each conservation authority has a provincially-approved 'Regulation of Development, Interference with Wetlands and Alterations to Shorelines and Watercourses' made under the Act. Conservation authorities regulate development and activities through a permitting process in areas prone to water related hazards (floodplains, shorelines, wetlands, hazardous lands) as set out in the Act and regulations that fall within the authority's jurisdiction. The conservation authority considers the impact of a development on the control of the natural hazards (flooding, erosion, dynamic beaches, pollution or the conservation of land) and considers permits for activities that may change or interfere with the existing channel of a watercourse or a wetland.

In a delegated role from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, conservation authorities review municipal plans and site plan applications made under the Planning Act for consistency with the natural hazards policies of the [Provincial Policy Statement, 2014](#).

Additional local resource management programs are determined by the conservation authority boards of directors which are comprised of municipal appointees. These additional programs reflect local needs and the capacity of the conservation authority and may include activities such as stewardship, watershed studies, education and recreation. Conservation authorities may also comment on municipal planning documents according to their own board approved policies as a public body.

By contract or agreement, authorities may provide additional technical advice or other services to municipalities, such as assessment of environmental impacts, hydrogeology services, stormwater management advice, natural heritage advice, septic system reviews, tree planting and other activities.

Conservation authorities may also have responsibilities under other provincial legislation, programs or through agreements with other government agencies. For example, conservation authorities undertake the duties of source protection authorities [under the Clean Water Act, 2006](#), and participate in the [Ontario Low Water Response Program](#).

[www.ontario.ca/lowwater](http://www.ontario.ca/lowwater)

<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/conservation-authorities>

#### **4. Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act**

The Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, administered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, provides for the management, preservation and use of Ontario's lakes and rivers and the land under them, the protection of public rights and riparian interests, the management of fish and wildlife dependent on lakes and rivers, protection of natural amenities and the protection of people and property by ensuring that dams and diversions are suitably located, constructed and maintained.

Dams and water diversions (e.g., for hydroelectric power production) are also regulated through the Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, which regulates works forwarding, holding back or diverting water and is administered through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry. Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act approvals govern how dams are managed including water levels and flows and levels as they are affected by the operation of waterpower generating facilities and water control structures to protect the public from floods and other hazards, while supporting flows, ecosystem health, drinking water supply, hydro-electricity generation, navigation for commercial and recreational purposes, agricultural irrigation, and municipal, commercial and industrial use.



## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

When a Permit to Take Water is required from the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change for the water taking associated with a dam or diversion, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change collaborates with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to harmonize the requirements imposed on dam or diversion operators by the approvals and permits issued by the ministries.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90i03\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90i03_e.htm)

<http://www.ontario.ca/law-and-safety/dam-management>

#### **5. Endangered Species Act, 2007**

With the passage of the Endangered Species Act in 2007, Ontario became a North American leader in protection and recovery for the province's more than 200 species at risk and their habitats. Many species at risk and their habitats in the Great Lakes Basin are now legally protected under the Act. Some of these protected species, including the Lake Sturgeon and American Eel, are also the focus of rehabilitation efforts under the Canada – Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2014.

The key to protecting many species at risk is protecting and restoring their habitats. Conserving water helps to maintain habitat conditions for many species at risk and will aid in their recovery. For example, the recovery of both Lake Sturgeon and American Eel would be enhanced by promoting passage around water control and waterpower structures, both of which may be used to alter river flows, and can affect water levels in downstream lakes and wetlands.

Under the Act, a recovery strategy is to be developed for each species listed as either Endangered or Threatened on the Species at Risk in Ontario list. A recovery strategy provides the Ontario government with the best available scientific information and advice regarding how to protect and recover the species. The government then outlines the actions it plans to take in response to this advice in a government response statement. Recovery strategies and government response statements are available to the public through Ontario's Environmental Registry and the species at risk pages on the Government of Ontario's website.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_07e06\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_07e06_e.htm)

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/species-risk>

#### **6. Great Lakes Wetland Conservation Action Plan**

The Great Lakes Wetland Conservation Action Plan (GLWCAP) was crafted in 1994 so government and environmental organization partners could work together more effectively to conserve remaining Great Lakes Basin wetlands. The GLWCAP is the implementation mechanism for the *25-year Strategic Plan for Wetlands of the Great Lakes Basin* (1993), and complements the Canada-Ontario Agreement for the Great Lakes and Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy. Prepared by a cooperative of government and non-government agencies, the GLWCAP outlines a framework for wetland conservation in the Great Lakes Basin through eight implementation strategies. The Steering Committee is co-chaired by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and Environment Canada, and includes representatives from Conservation Ontario, The Nature Conservancy of Canada, Ducks Unlimited Canada and Ontario Nature.

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, on behalf of Ontario, also supports international efforts to conserve and manage Great Lakes coastal wetlands through its participation in initiatives such as the International Joint Commission's Upper Great Lakes and Lake Ontario-St. Lawrence River water level studies.

<http://glwcap.ca>

**7. Greenbelt Act, 2005 and Greenbelt Plan**

The Greenbelt Act, 2005 provides the legislative framework for the development and implementation of the Greenbelt Plan. The Act sets out the objectives of the Greenbelt Plan including protection of the land base needed to maintain, restore and improve the ecological and hydrological functions of the Greenbelt Area. The Greenbelt Act requires all decisions under the Planning Act and Condominium Act to conform to the Greenbelt Plan and that municipalities bring their official plans into conformity with the Greenbelt Plan at the time of their next 5 year official plan review.

The Greenbelt Plan requires municipalities to provide for a comprehensive, integrated and long-term approach to managing water resource systems. It identifies a Natural System comprised of a Natural Heritage System, mapped in the Plan, and a Water System as a guiding framework to help reach this goal. It also contains a listing of key natural heritage and key hydrological features which are to be identified and protected from development and site alteration, along with appropriate buffers.

The Greenbelt Plan area contains numerous watersheds, subwatersheds and groundwater resources, including the network of tributaries that support the major river systems identified in the Plan. These resources are critical to the long-term health and sustainability of water resources and biodiversity and overall ecological integrity.

Key policies which ensure the protection of water resources in the Greenbelt include those related to: the need to use watershed plans and watershed management approaches to guide development; the consideration of cross-jurisdictional or cross-watershed impacts; and municipalities are required to protect source water, vulnerable surface and ground water areas, such as wellhead protection areas in accordance with provincial direction.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_05g01\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_05g01_e.htm)

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page189.aspx>

**8. Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act and Niagara Escarpment Plan**

The Niagara Escarpment Planning and Development Act sets out the legislative framework for the Niagara Escarpment Plan and its implementation through a system of development control that is administered by the Niagara Escarpment Commission, a regulatory agency of the Government of Ontario. The purpose of the Act and the Niagara Escarpment Plan is to provide for the maintenance of the Niagara Escarpment and land in its vicinity substantially as a continuous natural environment, and to ensure that only such development occurs as is compatible with that natural environment.

The Plan identifies several land use designations which direct how land can be used throughout the Niagara Escarpment Plan Area, and includes policies that guide planning and development in order to

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

help protect water resources. The Plan works to ensure that new development affecting streams, watercourses, lakes, wetlands, and groundwater systems will have minimum individual and cumulative effect on water quality and quantity, and on the Escarpment environment.

<http://www.escarpment.org/landplanning/plan/index.php>

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90n02\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90n02_e.htm)

#### **9. Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy**

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011, is the guiding framework for coordinating the conservation of Ontario's biodiversity. Implementation and reporting on progress of the strategy is guided by the Ontario Biodiversity Council with membership from government, conservation stakeholders, Aboriginal organizations and industry. In May 2015, the Council released the State of Ontario's Biodiversity 2015 report assessing progress against Ontario's 15 biodiversity targets and 45 indicators.

Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy includes actions to reduce threats and enhance the resilience of the Great Lakes through activities including reducing pollution, preventing the introduction and spread of invasive species, implementing legislation to better protect species at risk and their habitats, completing a system of protected areas representative of Ontario's ecosystems, and encouraging private land and water resources stewardship. On an international scale, Ontario participates in efforts to conserve the diversity of species and ecosystems of the Great Lakes Basin through binational projects that developed biodiversity conservation strategies for each of the Great Lakes.

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/c527c66f#/c527c66f/1>

[www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr](http://www.ontariobiodiversitycouncil.ca/sobr)

#### **10. Biodiversity: It's in Our Nature, Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity 2012-2020**

Biodiversity: It's in Our Nature, Ontario Government Plan to Conserve Biodiversity 2012-2020 (BIION) is the Ontario government's implementation plan for advancing biodiversity conservation under Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy, 2011. The plan is an important statement of partnership and commitment across 16 ministries to work together to conserve Ontario's biodiversity.

BIION includes actions and activities to reduce threats and enhance the resilience of the Great Lakes ecosystem including promoting land and water conservation; reducing threats to biodiversity posed by habitat loss, invasive species, pollution, population growth and climate change; enhancing habitats and ecosystem services; and supporting science, research and information management to inform biodiversity conservation.

<http://viewer.zmags.com/publication/c8f28fef#/c8f28fef/6>

# Province of Ontario

## Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

### 11. Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy

Released in December 2012, Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy provides a roadmap for how Ontario will focus action to protect the Great Lakes. Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy includes a summary of Great Lakes environmental conditions, a summary of Ontario's actions taken to date, and identification of priority areas for future action. Priorities for future action are described around the following six Great Lakes goals:

- Engaging and empowering communities
- Protecting water for human and ecological health
- Improving wetlands, beaches, shorelines and coastal areas
- Protecting habitats and species
- Enhancing understanding and adaptation
- Ensuring environmentally sustainable economic opportunities and innovation

Goal 2 of Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy (protecting water for human and ecological health) includes actions to improve water quantity management such as fulfilling Ontario's commitments under the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and promoting water conservation and efficiency under the Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act.

The province is currently implementing actions in Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy focused on community engagement, water protection, coastal and beach improvements, biodiversity protection, science, climate change adaptation, and innovative economic opportunities. Fulfilling the Strategy's triennial reporting commitment, the First Progress Report on Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy is due in winter 2015-16.

[www.ontario.ca/document/ontarios-great-lakes-strategy](http://www.ontario.ca/document/ontarios-great-lakes-strategy)

### 12. Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health, 2014

The Canada-Ontario Agreement (COA) is the principal mechanism through which Ontario and Canada coordinate their work to address their respective and shared commitments to protect the Great Lakes. The first COA was signed in 1971. In December 2014, a new 8<sup>th</sup> Canada-Ontario Agreement on Great Lakes Water Quality and Ecosystem Health was signed. The new COA supports implementation of Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy and the 2012 Canada-U.S. Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. It commits Ontario to developing a nutrient target by 2016 to address algal blooms in the Great Lakes. It also contains a number of new provisions that strengthen governance and accountability measures, as well as new annexes on Engaging First Nations, Engaging Métis, Engaging Communities and adapting to climate change impacts.

During the term of this new COA, the governments hope to complete all actions toward delisting five Areas of Concern and make significant progress in the remaining Areas of Concern. Additional COA goals include taking targeted action in priority nearshore areas, increasing investment in nutrients and climate change science, undertaking more focused invasive species work, providing a more strategic approach to influencing future water infrastructure investments and improved understanding and implementation of adaptive management approaches to lake level regulation.

## **Province of Ontario**

### **Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative (Cities Initiative) is a Canada-U.S. coalition of over 100 mayors and other local officials working with federal, state and provincial governments (i.e., Ontario and Quebec) to advance the protection and restoration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Since 2008, the ministry, together with the Ministries of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, has collaborated with the Cities Initiative through Memoranda of Cooperation on shared Great Lakes priorities. Deliverables have included economic studies, stormwater and climate change adaptation projects. On June 18, 2015, the Ministers of the Environment and Climate Change; Natural Resources and Forestry; and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs signed a new Memorandum of Cooperation with the Cities Initiative, which will be in place for three years. It outlines areas of cooperation including climate change adaptation and mitigation.

[www.ontario.ca/page/canada-ontario-great-lakes-agreement](http://www.ontario.ca/page/canada-ontario-great-lakes-agreement)

#### **13. Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015**

In October 2015, the Ontario legislature passed the Great Lakes Protection Act, 2015 (the Act received royal assent on November 3, 2015) which will strengthen the province's ability to keep the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River clean, as well as to protect and restore the waterways that flow into them. (The Act received royal assent on November 3, 2015).

The Act enables the province to address significant environmental challenges to the Great Lakes, including climate change, harmful pollutants and algal blooms.

The Act allows the Ministry to set environmental targets and enables communities to address local problems. It requires the establishment of monitoring programs where needed, as well as regular public reporting.

The Great Lakes Protection Act enshrines Ontario's Great Lakes Strategy, the province's action plan on the Great Lakes, as a living document to be reviewed every six years and reported in the legislature every three years.

The Act will also establish a Great Lakes Guardians' Council to provide a collaborative forum for discussing and gaining input on issues and priorities relating to the Great Lakes.

#### **14. Joint Strategic Plan for the Management of Great Lakes Fisheries**

The *Joint Strategic Plan for Management of Great Lakes Fisheries* is a world-renowned model for ensuring that Canada and the U.S. agree on how best to manage and sustain common Great Lakes fish stocks. The Great Lakes Fishery Commission, a secretariat that coordinates fisheries management and research on the Great Lakes, coordinates implementation of this historic plan, originating in the 1950s and last revised in 1997. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry represents Ontario on four out of five Great Lakes Fishery Commission lake committees and on the Council of Lake Committees. The lake committees are responsible for developing fish-community goals and objectives for each Great Lake, as well as plans for managing, preserving and restoring Great Lakes fish species and their habitats.

The Joint Strategic Plan makes a clear connection between fish habitat, water quality and water uses. The plan highlights impacts on fish during spawning and the potential for large-scale diversions to impact

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

fish. Thus, the plan clearly identifies a need to ensure the conflicting goals of users take into account impacts on fish, an important aquatic resource.

[www.glf.org](http://www.glf.org)

**OBJECTIVE 2: ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT TO PROMOTE EFFICIENT USE AND CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES**

To achieve this objective, Ontario has a range of programs that manage water supply and demand to achieve efficient use and conservation of water resources — including promoting innovative water technologies, green infrastructure and water use efficiency.

**15. Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010**

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2010 Ontario's Legislature passed the Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010. The Act contains five schedules. Schedule 1 enacts a stand-alone act, the Water Opportunities Act, 2010 (see below for details). Schedules 2 to 5 amend existing legislation in respect of water conservation and other matters. The Act builds upon Ontario's expertise in clean water technology and sets out a framework to make the province a North American leader in water innovation to help address global water challenges. Among other things, the Act sets the framework to encourage Ontarians to use water more efficiently by creating and implementing innovative approaches to protect water resources for current and future generations.

The Water Opportunities Act created the Water Technology Acceleration Project (WaterTAP), a non-crown corporation to encourage collaboration and coordination between industry, governments and academia. WaterTAP is assisting in facilitating the creation and growth of globally competitive companies and high-value jobs in the water and wastewater sector.

The Water Opportunities Act, 2010 also includes authority to require municipalities and other municipal service providers to prepare municipal water sustainability plans that would include an asset management plan, a financial plan, a water conservation plan, strategies for maintaining and improving the service, a risk assessment and other prescribed information; authority to require prescribed information on or with municipal water bills to promote transparency; authority to set aspirational targets for water conservation and other matters; and authority to require public agencies to prepare water conservation plans. This includes authority to require public agencies to achieve water conservation targets and consider technologies, services and practices that promote the efficient use of water when making capital investments or purchasing goods and services.

The Act also amended the Ontario Water Resources Act to enable regulations for water efficiency standards or requirements for prescribed appliances and products. No person would be permitted to offer for sale, sell or lease a prescribed appliance or product unless it meets the water efficiency standard or requirement set out in the regulations. These are tools that will enable Ontarians to use water more efficiently to conserve and protect water resources.

The Act also amended the Building Code Act, 1992. These changes require the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing to initiate reviews of the Building Code with reference to standards for water conservation every five years, rename the Building Code Energy Advisory Council to the Building Code

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

Conservation Advisory Council, and expand the mandate of this council to include advising the Minister on the Building Code with reference to standards for water conservation.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_10w19\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_10w19_e.htm)

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2362](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=2362)

#### **16. Financial Plans Regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act, 2002**

As part of the province's commitment to implement all of Justice O'Connor's Walkerton recommendations, the province put in place a new licensing framework under the Safe Drinking Water Act for municipal residential drinking-water systems – the Municipal Drinking-Water License Program. Financial plans are one of the elements which must be put in place for a license to be issued.

A Financial Plans Regulation and Financial Plans Guidance Document were prepared and put into effect by the province in 2007. The Regulation outlines requirements set out by the Minister of the Environment and Climate Change for financial plans that are required to obtain a license under the Safe Drinking Water Act. Taken together, the Financial Plans Regulation and Guideline are a key step in the province's long term strategy to ensure the financial sustainability of municipal drinking water and wastewater systems.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2007/elaws\\_src\\_regs\\_r07453\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/source/regs/english/2007/elaws_src_regs_r07453_e.htm)

[http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env\\_reg/er/documents/2007/Financial%20Plan%20Guideline%20-%20Aug%202015.pdf](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/env_reg/er/documents/2007/Financial%20Plan%20Guideline%20-%20Aug%202015.pdf)

#### **17. Building Code Act, 1992 and the Building Code**

Ontario's Building Code is a regulation under the Building Code Act, 1992 that sets out technical and administrative requirements that must be met when a building is constructed, renovated or undergoes a change of use.

One way to conserve water is to design buildings so that they use less water. Ontario's Building Code has been amended over the past 20 years to include increasingly progressive water conservation requirements.

Conservation became one of the purposes of the Building Code with the introduction of the Building Code Act, 1992. Over time, water conservation requirements for plumbing fixtures have been enhanced so that today, very high-efficiency toilets (4.8 litre or 4/6 litre dual flush), urinals (1.9 litre) and showerheads (7.6 litres/minute) are required as a minimum in new construction and renovations. The Building Code has also been amended to allow for more plumbing functions to reuse storm sewage, greywater and rainwater and to remove barriers to water reuse, thereby increasing certainty in the building industry about the uses of these green technologies.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_92b23\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_92b23_e.htm)

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws\\_regs\\_120332\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/regs/english/elaws_regs_120332_e.htm)

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**18. Green Energy Act, 2009**

On May 14, 2009 the Ontario government passed the Green Energy Act to attract new investment, create new green economy jobs and better protect the environment. Amendments in 2010 expanded the guiding principles for the Government of Ontario to consider when constructing, acquiring, operating and managing government facilities. The guiding principles now include:

- Reporting on water use associated with government facilities;
- Ensuring water efficiency is considered in planning and designing government facilities; and
- Using technologies, services and practices that promote the efficient use of water and reduce negative impacts on Ontario's water resources.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_09g12\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_09g12_e.htm)

On October 28, 2015 the government introduced amendments to the *Green Energy Act, 2009* that, if passed, would enable authority to allow the government to implement: a large building energy and water reporting and benchmarking initiative through a subsequent regulation; and water efficiency standards for energy consuming products and appliances through a subsequent regulation.

[http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills\\_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3539](http://www.ontla.on.ca/web/bills/bills_detail.do?locale=en&Intranet=&BillID=3539)

**19. Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001 and Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan**

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act, 2001 provides the legislative framework for the development and implementation of the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan. The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Act requires all decisions under the Planning Act and Condominium Act to conform to the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan and that municipalities bring their official plans and zoning by-laws into conformity with the Plan.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan provides a long-term framework of designations and policies and requires that municipalities further implement these directions through their official plans and zoning by-laws. It identifies a Natural Heritage System comprised of Cores and Linkage Areas and goes on to define key natural heritage and hydrological features which are to be identified and protected, along with defined buffers. It also provides mapping of landform conservation areas and highly vulnerable aquifer areas, requires subwatershed planning and the preparation of water conservation plans and water budgets, and requires the identification and protection of municipal well-head protection areas and restricts certain types of stormwater management facilities in order to protect the ground water resources in the Moraine's aquifers – which provide drinking water for over 250,000 people and provide the baseflow for the vast majority of streams running north and south off the Moraine – the regional groundwater divide for central Ontario.

The Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan requires that every upper-tier municipality and single-tier municipality within the designated moraine area begin to prepare a water budget and conservation plan for every watershed whose streams originate within the municipality's area of jurisdiction. It also, as of April 2007, prohibits major development unless the water budget and conservation plan is completed and demonstrates that the water supply required for the major development is sustainable.



**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_01o31\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_01o31_e.htm)

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=1779>

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/Page4808.aspx>

## **20. Places to Grow Act, 2005 and Growth Plans**

The Places to Grow Act, 2005 provides the legislative framework for the development and implementation of growth plans for any part of the province. The Act clearly establishes the provincial interest in coordinated regional growth management and infrastructure investment. It sets a broad scope for growth plans, allowing for province-wide relevance and application, and gives growth plans status. The Act requires that all decisions under the Planning Act and Condominium Act, 1998 must conform to a growth plan and that municipal official plans be brought into conformity within three years of the effective date of a growth plan.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_05p13\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_05p13_e.htm)

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe area was the first plan developed under the Places to Grow Act, 2005, and came into effect in June 2006. The Province is currently undertaking a coordinated review of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, along with the Greenbelt Plan, the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, and the Niagara Escarpment Plan, consistent with the plans' legislated ten year review timeline.

### Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe

The Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006 represents the province's long-term vision for managing the rapid growth that is forecast for this region to 2041. The Plan contains policies that call for more compact and complete communities, require co-ordination between infrastructure investment and land-use planning and support the development of a culture of conservation.

The Growth Plan includes water conservation policies. These policies require that the construction of new, or expansion of existing, municipal or private communal water and wastewater systems should only be considered when:

- strategies for water conservation and other water demand management initiatives are being implemented;
- plans for expansion or for new services are to serve growth in a manner that supports achievement of the intensification and density targets; and,
- plans have been considered in the context of applicable Great Lakes Basin Agreements.

Municipalities are also required to develop and implement official plan policies and other strategies in support of conservation objectives: water conservation, including water demand management, for the efficient use of water, and water recycling to maximize the reuse and recycling of water.

[https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=9&Itemid=14](https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=9&Itemid=14)

# Province of Ontario

## Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

### Growth Plan for Northern Ontario

In March 2011, the Ministry of Infrastructure released the Growth Plan for Northern Ontario, a 25-year plan to guide decisions and investments to build a globally competitive northern economy that is resilient and sustainable. The Plan includes a chapter on the environment which sets out policies to encourage municipalities to contribute to the protection of surface water and ground water features. Additionally, Northern economic and service hubs are to identify environmental sustainability objectives and develop policies and programs to achieve water conservation.

[https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=65](https://www.placestogrow.ca/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=53&Itemid=65)

### **21. Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 and Lake Simcoe Protection Plan, 2009**

The Lake Simcoe Protection Act, 2008 provides the legislative framework for the development and implementation of the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan.

On June 2, 2009 the government released the Lake Simcoe Protection Plan to address environmental protection of the watershed. Drawing on expert advice from scientists, the plan sets a new standard for environmental protection in the province and provides a road map to help restore and protect the health of Lake Simcoe.

Among other things, the Plan promotes greater efforts to conserve and use water more efficiently in order to maintain future demands for water within sustainable limits. To monitor progress in achieving the water quantity-related objectives of the Plan, the indicators of environmental health relating to water quantity include effective water conservation and efficiency plans (e.g. as measured through reductions in peak water demand; reduced water use per capita; progress in achieving municipal targets).

The Plan contains the following policies to promote greater efforts to conserve and use water more efficiently throughout the Lake Simcoe watershed:

- Within five years of the date the Plan comes into effect, municipalities of Barrie, Orillia, New Tecumseth, Bradford West Gwillimbury, Innisfil, Oro-Medonte and Ramara will prepare and begin implementation of a water conservation and efficiency plan that includes targets for water conservation and/or efficiency with associated timeframes, water conservation measures, incentives and means to promote conservation, cost/benefit analyses, required measures, an implementation plan, and monitoring and reporting;
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in cooperation with key stakeholders, will assist and encourage water conservation and efficiency efforts in the agricultural community through stewardship programs aimed at promoting the adoption of best management practices;
- The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change will work with other water use sectors in the Lake Simcoe watershed to encourage the development and implementation of water conservation and efficient use practices for their sector; and
- An application to establish or expand a major recreational use shall be accompanied by a recreational water use plan that demonstrates the reduction in water use or use of water conservation technologies.

Orillia and Innisfil released Water Conservation and Efficiency Plans (WCEPs) in 2014. The Plans include reference to the Ontario Water Works Association (OWWA), the LSPP and the local

## **Province of Ontario**

### **Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

Subwatershed Plans, and are currently being implemented. Bradford West Gwillimbury also maintains a WCEP that is intended to help the Town utilize and expand upon existing conservation efforts, as well as meeting the requirements set out in the LSPP. The City of Barrie is building on existing programs, water conservation programs initiated in the mid and late 1990s and currently has some measures, such as an appliance rebate program and lawn watering restrictions, but no specific conservation targets have been established. New Tecumseth, Oro-Medonte, and Ramara are all providing water conservation programs.

With support from the province, Tourism Barrie has introduced a pilot project providing educational tools to encourage watershed businesses in the tourism sector to become local pioneers in green business practices. The project focuses on a “Green Tourism Toolkit” that includes a sustainability strategy and an operator Self-Assessment, a manageable starting point that will give the operator a quick picture of greening opportunities, including water conservation and efficient use practices.

In the development sector, the LSRCA and MOECC are working to change the way water is managed in urban areas of the watershed by encouraging the implementation of Low Impact Development (LID) practices. The program objective is to better manage urban stormwater using sustainable methods that mimic the natural hydrologic cycle, moving water into the ground much in the same way it did before houses or parking lots were built there. Efforts include promoting "greener" construction practices and ‘rainscaping’ in new undeveloped lands as part of the subdivision plan, and to existing development through retrofitting. LID can improve water quantity control, reduce flood risks, and increase resilience to climate change by improving groundwater recharge conditions.

The plan also requires the Ministries of Environment and Climate Change and Natural Resources and Forestry to develop in-stream flow targets for water quantity stressed subwatersheds, in collaboration with the local conservation authority. Targets have been established for the Maskinonge River and Lover’s Creek, considering the potential impacts of climate change. These will be used to inform future strategies related to water taking.

In support of these initiatives, the province and the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority (LSRCA) recently finalized the development of Tier Two Water Budget information for all subwatersheds in the Lake Simcoe watershed, to create a complete surface water and groundwater model representation for the entire Basin. The water budgets may be used to inform municipal water conservation and efficiency plans and municipal decisions concerning growth and development; water-taking strategies and decisions concerning Permits to Take Water; and the identification of significant groundwater recharge areas.

Ecologically Significant Groundwater Recharge Areas are the areas of the landscape responsible for providing water to ecologically significant features, such as cold-water streams and significant wetlands. The province is working with the LSRCA to map these areas in the watershed. Areas of high volume recharge have been mapped for entire watershed, and mapping of ecologically significant recharge areas is near completion. In early 2014, the LSRCA, in collaboration with Ministries of Environment and Climate Change and Natural Resources and Forestry, and watershed municipalities, developed guidance to assist municipalities in protecting and restoring these important areas.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_08123\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_08123_e.htm)

<http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/en/water/lakesimcoe/index.php>

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**22. Planning Act and Provincial Policy Statement, 2014**

The Planning Act provides the legislative basis for the land use planning system in Ontario. Municipalities are the main implementers of provincial land use planning policies through their official plans and zoning by-laws and their decisions on planning applications. Their decisions and plans are required by the Planning Act to conform (or not conflict) with provincial plans and to be consistent with policies in the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014. A variety of other legislation may also apply when municipalities are making decisions on applications or when creating their planning documents.

The Planning Act contains the process requirements for public notice and consultation rules governing municipal processing of land use proposals or documents and the framework for appeals to the Ontario Municipal Board. The planning process provides an opportunity for an inter-disciplinary assessment of all related matters pertaining to land use, including the integration of water-related considerations.

Issued under the authority of section 3 of the Planning Act, the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 provides policy direction on matters relating to land use planning that are of provincial interest. For example, policy 1.6.6.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 states that planning for water and sewage services shall promote water conservation and water use efficiency. In addition, policy 2.2.1 states that planning authorities shall protect, improve or restore the quality and quantity of water by, among other things, “planning for efficient and sustainable use of water resources, through practices for water conservation and sustaining water quality” and using the watershed as the ecologically meaningful scale for planning. It calls for planning authorities to identify the water resource system, including ground and surface water features and functions necessary for ecological and hydrological integrity of the watershed, and maintain linkages among hydrologically connected water-based and terrestrial-based features.

A comprehensive review of the Provincial Policy Statement was undertaken collaboratively with ministries that have an interest in land use planning. The Provincial Policy Statement 2014 was released and came into effect on April 30, 2014.

Under the Clean Water Act, source protection plans were developed locally based on scientific assessments that identified vulnerable areas related to municipal drinking water systems that must be considered by planning authorities when implementing policy 2.2.1 of the Provincial Policy Statement, 2014. These source protection plans also identify areas where water supplies are vulnerable to depletion and may include policies to find efficiencies in the use of water including developing water conservation plans to address these water supply risks.

<http://www.mah.gov.on.ca/AssetFactory.aspx?did=10463>

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_90p13\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_90p13_e.htm)

**23. Municipal Stormwater Management Systems**

The Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has created several documents for municipalities, community groups, businesses and anyone who is interested in managing stormwater and reducing pollution at its source.

[http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/subject/stormwater\\_management/STDPROD\\_076045.html](http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/environment/en/subject/stormwater_management/STDPROD_076045.html)

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

In 2010, the ministry completed a review of the need for a new policy, act or regulation to deal with municipal stormwater management systems in Ontario municipalities in light of climate change. The review identified a need for a stormwater management policy framework, with emphasis on improving stormwater management at the source through reuse and low impact development practices. Further, increased collaboration for source control practices is needed between all partners including residents, businesses, conservation authorities and all levels of governments.

The ministry is collaborating with several partners on three case study projects on innovative stormwater management practices. The ministry also has started the development of stormwater low impact development (LID) guidance to complement the existing stormwater manual.

<http://www.moi.gov.on.ca/en/news/bg20110518.asp>

#### **24. Ontario's Water Sector Strategy**

On January 9, 2013, MEDTE released *Ontario's Water Sector Strategy*. Through the strategy, Ontario aims to become a North American leader in the development, demonstration, commercialization and sale of water technologies. The Strategy builds on Ontario's strong foundation of water companies, researchers, demonstration and commercialization capabilities, and supportive policies. It focuses on three key actions:

- Driving Adoption of Innovative Technologies
- Attracting Investment and Increasing Access to Global Markets
- Creating a Competitive Ontario Advantage

The strategy can be accessed

at: [http://www.watertapontario.com/a/brochures/20130523230443\\_waterstrategyen.pdf](http://www.watertapontario.com/a/brochures/20130523230443_waterstrategyen.pdf)

#### **OBJECTIVE 3: IMPROVE MONITORING AND STANDARDIZE DATA REPORTING AMONG STATE AND PROVINCIAL WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PROGRAMS**

To achieve this objective, Ontario has a range of programs that improve monitoring of water supply, use and conservation/ efficiency and standardizing data reporting among state and provinces.

#### **25. Ontario Low Water Response**

The Ontario Low Water Response program provides a framework to coordinate and support local response in the event of a drought. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry maintains the provincial climate and streamflow monitoring network, analyzes data to provide early warnings, and coordinates provincial drought response. The Ontario Low Water Response program creates three levels of low water status, based on measureable and escalating low water conditions. Local Water Response Teams may be required to outline contingency measures within the watershed to achieve water use reduction targets of 10 to 20%. Water permit holders may be contacted to help achieve water reduction targets. Increasing water conservation is required as water scarcity increases. The program is currently

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

being modernized to streamline the response process, clarify roles and responsibilities and allow for increased autonomy in local decision making.

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/low-water-response-program>

## **26. Ontario Surface Water Monitoring**

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry collects, monitors and analyzes water flows, levels and climate data to identify areas throughout the province where a potential risk of flood or drought may exist. This information is collected in accordance with Lieutenant Governor Order-in-Council and under the mandate of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* for the purposes of public safety; however the information has broad applicability to any program in evaluating water supply and water budgets.

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/surface-water-monitoring-centre>

## **27. Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network**

The Provincial Groundwater Monitoring Network monitors and reports on ambient groundwater levels and quality in aquifers across Ontario, through a network of over 450 monitoring wells. Rain gauges established at 50 of the monitoring sites provide information on how groundwater levels are responding to precipitation and changing weather patterns. The water level and chemistry data produced under this program support drought response, assessment of permit to take water applications, source water protection activities, and water budget and cumulative impact studies.

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/provincial-groundwater-monitoring-network>

## **28. Water Use Reporting**

Under Ontario Regulation 387/04, every holder of a Permit to Take Water is required to report daily water use for each calendar year by March 31 of the following year. These data are used to inform the broad water management programs for the province.

Provincial reporting of withdrawals, consumptive uses and diversions to the Great Lakes Commission's Regional Water Use Database is coordinated by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry in collaboration with the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change.

<http://www.glc.org/wateruse/database/>

## **29. Spatial Data Infrastructure Unit**

The Spatial Data Infrastructure Unit provides leadership and coordination to capture, create and maintain the province's fundamental mapping data (e.g., roads, water, utilities, wetlands, elevation and aerial imagery) and works to ensure information about Ontario's water resources is available to provincial ministries, municipalities, conservation authorities and others to create maps, conduct geographic analysis and support decisions about the province's water resources. The Ontario Hydrology Network; Ontario Integrated Hydrology; provincial elevation and imagery layers; and enhanced watershed boundaries are all examples of datasets produced by the Spatial Data Infrastructure Unit that can support the implementation of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement.

## **Province of Ontario**

### **Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

Spatial Data Infrastructure has developed the Ontario Flow Assessment Tool (OFAT) to allow water professionals in the public and private sectors and academia to analyze and understand water flow. The application allows for watersheds to be generated, characterized and flows estimated for any location in Ontario. Statistics and mapping from OFAT can be used for applications such as water permitting, water use reporting and water quantity assessment.

<https://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/topographic-maps>

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/watershed-flow-assessment-tool>

#### **30. Ontario's Provincial Fish Strategy: Fish For The Future**

Ontario's abundant aquatic resources support a diverse range of year-round recreational, commercial and First Nation and Métis fisheries. Together, these activities and their supporting industries are estimated to contribute more than \$2.5 billion annually to Ontario's economy. The Provincial Fish Strategy outlines goals, objectives and tactics to improve the conservation and management of fisheries and the ecosystems on which fish communities depend; and to promote, facilitate and encourage fishing.

Ontario's Fisheries Management Zones have been established to protect and maintain Ontario's high quality fishing opportunities. To enhance public involvement and decision-making in managing and ensuring the sustainability of its recreational fisheries resources, Ontario created complementary Fisheries Management Zone Advisory Councils for each zone. Each of Ontario's four Great Lakes is assigned a council, with a council assigned specifically to the Fisheries Management Zone that encompasses Georgian Bay as well.

In support of fisheries management, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry implemented a broad-scale monitoring program for inland lakes. The broad-scale monitoring program is a long-term effort to monitor the health of Ontario's lakes and their fisheries. The goals of the program are to: describe the distribution of aquatic resources in Ontario lakes; identify stresses on these resources; track trends in indicators of the health of Ontario's fisheries, lake ecosystems and aquatic biodiversity; and assess and report on the status of fisheries in Ontario. A wide range of variables are monitored: fish are netted to determine abundance, sex, length and weight, and to test for contaminants; temperature/oxygen and water quality is analyzed; invasive species are documented; and fishing effort is estimated.

Intensive monitoring occurs on each of the Great Lakes to provide information on the fish communities and fisheries they support. These monitoring programs inform the development of lake-specific Fish Community Objectives and are used to establish allowable harvest levels for fisheries within the lakes.

<https://www.ontario.ca/page/fishing>

#### **31. The Ontario Geological Survey's Groundwater Mapping Initiative**

The Ontario Geological Survey's groundwater mapping initiative contributes to water management initiatives, including the development of GIS-based geological maps / databases, regional (3-D) aquifer mapping in bedrock and surficial sediments, watershed characterization, thematic studies, regional groundwater geochemistry studies, method/protocol and product development.

<http://www.mndm.gov.on.ca/en/mines-and-minerals/geoscience/groundwater>

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**32. Climate Change Modelling and the Weather and Water Information Gateway**

Weather and Water Information Gateway (WWIG) is a directory of standardized weather, and water resource data and information. Based on open standards, it provides long-term access to current and future data sets. It provides data, knowledge and tools to support the development of local capacity. WWIG data helps decision-makers make more informed risk management decisions.

<https://www.javacoeapp.lrc.gov.on.ca/geonetwork/srv/en/main.home>

**33. Stream Water Quality Monitoring and the Multi-Watershed Nutrients Study**

The Provincial Water Quality Monitoring Network measures and reports on stream water quality across Ontario with focussed studies related to agricultural and urban pesticide uses, climate change, drinking water source protection, road salts and mining development. Collected data inform assimilative capacity assessments and decisions regarding water takings and wastewater discharges. The Multi-Watershed Nutrients Study was launched in 2013 to assess the interaction between agricultural land use and nutrient loadings in streams draining to the Great Lakes. The study will inform potential management actions to mitigate nutrient losses from agricultural systems.

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/provincial-stream-water-quality-monitoring-network>

**OBJECTIVE 4: DEVELOP SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND RESEARCH**

To achieve this objective, Ontario has a range of programs that encourage science, technology and research to implement the best in water, wastewater and stormwater technology.

**34. Showcasing Water Innovation Fund**

The \$17 million program launched on April 29, 2011 is funding leading-edge, innovative and cost-effective solutions for managing drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems in Ontario communities. The program was established to complement the Water Opportunities Act, 2010 by advancing integrated and sustainable water management in Ontario communities. Projects include testing new technologies, demonstrating stormwater technologies and approaches, advancing water conservation in new developments, and others. All projects will be completed by March 2016. Lessons learned from these innovative projects are being shared across the province.

[www.ontario.ca/waterinnovation](http://www.ontario.ca/waterinnovation)

**35. Ontario Clean Water Agency**

The Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010 enabled the Ontario Clean Water Agency to finance and promote the development, testing, demonstration and commercialization of technologies and services for the treatment and management of water, wastewater and stormwater. The Ontario Clean Water Agency is a Crown Agency of the province that provides clean water services to municipalities, First Nations communities, institutions and businesses.

[http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws\\_statutes\\_93c23\\_e.htm](http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/html/statutes/english/elaws_statutes_93c23_e.htm)



**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**36. Walkerton Clean Water Centre**

The Walkerton Clean Water Centre was established in 2004, as part of the province's response to the Walkerton Inquiry Report. The Centre provides training for drinking water operators across Ontario, with a focus on smaller and remote systems, including those serving First Nations. The Centre's Technology Demonstration Facility, with its leading-edge drinking water technologies, is a platform for hands-on training and research on cost-effective solutions for small drinking water systems. The Centre is also responsible for delivering education, information and advice on water treatment, equipment, technology and operational requirements, and environmental issues related to drinking water, such as a course entitled "Water Conservation" that takes participants through a step-by-step process for developing a water conservation plan.

<https://www.wewc.ca/en/>

**37. Innovation Demonstration Fund**

The Innovation Demonstration Fund administered by the Ministry of Research and Innovation focuses on emerging technologies, including environmental, alternative energy, bio-products, hydrogen and other globally significant technologies. The purpose of the Innovation Demonstration Fund is to support pilot-scale technology demonstrations that will lead to the commercialization of processes and/or products in Ontario that are globally competitive, innovative green technologies. Although the program is not currently accepting applications, the program previously announced a special round of funding for water projects that resulted in support being provided to four water technology projects with an investment of \$5.9M.

<http://www.ontario.ca/business-and-economy/funding-clean-tech-projects>

**38. Green Focus on Innovation and Technology**

To support newly commercialized innovative green technologies, the province introduced the Green Focus on Innovation and Technology. The initiative allows the Government of Ontario to use its buying power to adopt innovative clean technologies, products and solutions and showcase the successful solutions to potential customers in local and global markets. Green Focus on Innovation and Technology provides an opportunity for clean technology companies to accelerate their innovative green technologies to the global marketplace.

<http://www.doingbusiness.mgs.gov.on.ca/mbs/psb/psb.nsf/English/GreenFIT>

**39. Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence Water Round**

The Ontario Research Fund Research Excellence Water Round promotes research excellence of strategic value to Ontario by supporting new leading-edge, transformative, and internationally significant research in water and wastewater-related technologies. These solutions include water and wastewater-related technologies and marketable processes and methods. For example, the government invested \$8.8 million to support four water research teams in Hamilton, Toronto, and Waterloo.

<http://www.ontario.ca/business-and-economy/ontario-research-fund>

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

#### 40. Investment Accelerator Fund

The Investment Accelerator Fund helps accelerate the growth of new technology companies (including companies focused on water conservation technologies) being established in Ontario and positions them for further investment by angels and venture capitalists. The Fund invests up to \$500,000 in companies that have the potential to be global leaders in their field and provide sustainable economic benefits to Ontario.

<http://www.marsdd.com/aboutmars/partners/iaf/>

#### 41. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs/University of Guelph Partnership Research Program

The Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs invests in research in seven theme areas through a partnership with the University of Guelph. The Environmental Sustainability (ES) research theme focuses on maintaining the ability of natural resources (soil, air, water and biodiversity) to support and strengthen agriculture, food and bio-product sectors and rural communities by evaluating environmental, economic, and social perspectives. In order to support long-term sustainability of the agri-food sector (agro-ecosystem and food system) and address the concerns of society, the Ministry invests in this research theme to:

- understand the agriculture and food sectors potential risks and benefits to soil, water, air and biodiversity resources;
- provide science for the development of credible and evidence-based government policies, programs and initiatives;
- assess the effect of environmental policies and the natural environment on the agri-environment, agri-food sector economics and rural society; and
- identify opportunities for agriculture, food, and bio-products sectors, and rural communities to provide solutions for societal environmental challenges.

The ES research theme for this year (2015-16) is focused on three main priority areas as given below.

- A. Understanding the drivers and stressors influencing the agri-food system's interaction with the natural environment
- B. Managing effects of the agri-food system using best management practices that consider economic, environmental and social implications
- C. Measuring performance of and defining optimum agri-food system management practices

In addition, the 'Agricultural and Rural Policy and Production Systems research themes promote water conservation and efficiency research for sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Since 2010, the OMAFRA-UofG Partnership research program has funded 28 research projects related to water management in agriculture and food that includes projects on phosphorus load management in watershed, mapping non-point source pollution in agricultural watershed, modeling ground water recharge, nutrient run-off from manure application, food processing waste-water treatment, and modeling water use efficiency.

<http://www.uoguelph.ca/research/omafra/index.shtml>

# Province of Ontario

## Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

### 42. New Directions Research Program

The purpose of the New Directions Research Program administered by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs is to stimulate the sustainable growth and competitiveness of Ontario's agri-food sector through investment in innovative and high quality research in partnership with industry, rural communities, organizations, other levels of government, and research institutions. The specific priorities for the call for proposals vary annually depending on the research need to address emerging issues. This program included water management as one of the priorities in its annual call for proposals for 3 years (2010/11, 2011/12 and 2012/13) and funded a total of 14 water management research projects across the province during that period. The 2013/14 and 2014/15 call for proposal included a climate change priority that funded 2 water research projects (out of total 6 climate change projects) linking to climate change impacts on agri-food water use. . The funded projects included reclamation/treatment of horticultural waste water, phosphorus loss from minimum tillage, evaluation of BMPs, fishery waste water treatment, decontaminating wash water for recycling, and water use efficiency in dairy farms. The 2015/16 priorities are soil health and carbon sequestration, antimicrobial research and preparing rural infrastructure for a changing climate. The next call for proposals is expected in the summer 2016.

[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/new\\_directions/](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/research/new_directions/)

### 43. Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre

The Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre was established to serve as an independent source of information on fisheries assessment, conservation, and management, promoting the value of both Western science and Aboriginal knowledge of the land and water. In the past nineteen years, the centre has completed over 385 fisheries projects with First Nations and government agencies across the province, including creel surveys, index netting projects, tagging studies, fish habitat inventories, and synthesis of existing fisheries data for the purpose of formulating resource management plans. This type of information contributes to measuring the success of water conservation and fisheries management efforts.

<http://www.aofrc.org/>

### 44. Climate Ready: Ontario's Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2014

Ontario's adaptation strategy and action plan outlines a framework for action across government, a vision for the four year period and beyond, and includes 37 near term actions.

The plan's 37 actions to improve Ontario's resilience include:

- Ensuring source protection plans consider integrating climate change adaptation measures into policies to ensure sources of drinking water are sustainable in the future.
- Releasing an updated Provincial Policy Statement in 2014 which requires that municipalities consider the impacts of a changing climate in infrastructure, electricity generation facilities, transmission and distribution systems, and public service facilities.
- Conserving biodiversity and supporting resiliency by helping ecosystems and species adapt by updating Ontario's biodiversity strategy.

<http://www.ontario.ca/environment-and-energy/climate-ready-adaptation-strategy-and-action-plan-2011-2014>

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**45. Quebec-Ontario Cooperation for Agri-Food Research Competition**

In 2014-15, a collaborative research call on water management and integrated pest management was issued jointly by Ontario OMAFRA and the ministère de l'Agriculture, des Pêcheries et de l'Alimentation du Québec (MAPAQ) under the Ontario–Quebec Trade and Cooperation Agreement. This one-time research initiative was launched with the following objectives:

- Develop solutions to agri-food issues shared by Quebec and Ontario;
- Encourage partnerships between Quebec and Ontario researchers;
- Enhance graduate student training through internships in the cooperating province.

The initiative funded three water management research projects in 2015 that are facilitating research collaboration and exchange between the provincial research institutions/ partners. The water management topics addressed by these inter-provincial collaborative research projects are i) developing food processing waste water treatment technology for recycling and reuse, ii) managing subsurface drainage water to optimize crop productivity, nutrient use and water availability in contemporary and future climates , and iii) groundwater use for agricultural production - current water budget and expected trends under climate change.

**OBJECTIVE 5: DEVELOP EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND INFORMATION SHARING FOR ALL WATER USERS**

To achieve this objective, Ontario has a range of education programs and other programs that raise awareness of the importance of water and the value of conservation, efficiency and cost-saving, and to share best management practices.

**46. Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program**

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program was established under the Clean Water Act, 2006 to provide financial assistance to help communities take voluntary actions to protect local sources of municipal drinking water. The investment of \$24.5 million provided cost-share funding to deliver local financial assistance to landowners, farmers, municipalities and businesses who implemented voluntary measures to help protect municipal drinking water sources. To date, the program has supported the implementation of over 3,000 on-the-ground projects across the province.

**47. Water Efficiency Labelling**

The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change has a promotional partnership agreement with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to be part of their WaterSense Program, a water efficiency labelling program for products such as showerheads, faucets, toilets, and pre-rinse spray valves. As a promotional partner, Ontario can share information about the program and promote WaterSense. The WaterSense label lets consumers know they are buying products tested and proven to use 20 per cent less water, and will make it easier for Ontarians to make green choices every day. WaterSense also gives tips for saving water around the house. Ontario-based manufacturers can get their water efficient products certified and promoted under the program. Retailers, municipalities and other

## Province of Ontario

### Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015

organizations in Ontario can also participate in WaterSense and help promote the label. More information is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/watersense>.

#### **48. Best Management Practices**

For the agricultural sector, the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs provides a number of fact sheets and over 25 booklets on best management practices (also referred to as environmentally sustainable agricultural practices). BMPs are consensus-based documents developed by multi-disciplinary and multi-agency project teams. . This series offers proven, practical and affordable approaches to conserving soil, water and other natural resources in agricultural and rural areas. In particular, four books- Irrigation Management, Water Management, Water Wells and Cropland Drainage - address, among other things, efficient use of water / water conservation, (e.g. water efficient irrigation systems and staggered irrigation schedules, water quality tile drainage installation, maintenance and outlet protection for erosion control and subsurface drainage whereby water use may be conserved).

The award-winning series can be found here:

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/bmp/series.htm>

For the municipal sector, the Ministry of the Environment and Climate Change provided funding to the Ontario Water Works Association to prepare “Water Efficiency: Best Management Practice” as well as “Outdoor Water Use Reduction Manual” and associated seminars, with order information available at:

[http://www.owwa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Water\\_Efficiency\\_Order\\_Form\\_revised.pdf](http://www.owwa.ca/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Water_Efficiency_Order_Form_revised.pdf)

#### **49. Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan Program and Growing Forward 2 Cost-share Funding Assistance Program**

The Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, in partnership with Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada supports the development and delivery of the Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan program. The Environmental Farm Plan (EFP) is a confidential, voluntary self-assessment farmers undertake to review potential environmental risks associated with their farm operations. Farmers attend an EFP educational workshop, complete a review of their operation, and develop an individualized Action Plan to address identified concerns. Action Plans may be submitted for independent review to verify appropriateness of the actions proposed for mitigating identified areas of risk. The EFP promotes water conservation and water efficiency, raising farmers’ awareness of legislative requirements, and best practices.

Participation in EFP and completion of a reviewed plan are required prior to a producer applying for cost-share funding for environmental projects under the Growing Forward 2 – Cost-share Funding Assistance program. The Implementation Funding Assistance program supports a range of best management practices projects categories including irrigation water efficiency improvements.

Funding support for both programs is currently provided by the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada under the federal-provincial Growing Forward 2 Agricultural Policy Framework Agreement. Both programs are delivered locally to farmers, on behalf of government, by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association and the Ontario Farm Environmental Coalition.

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

<http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/environment/efp/efp.htm>

**50. Species at Risk Stewardship Fund**

The Species at Risk Stewardship Program is a Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry funding program to encourage and support the recovery and protection of species at risk and their habitats through stewardship and research activities. Since 2007, Ontario has supported over 700 projects through the fund. The fund is open to a wide variety of individuals and groups. Examples of eligible aquatic-related activities could include inventory, monitoring or outreach work related to aquatic species at risk, enhancing and protecting aquatic habitat of species at risk or the development and implementation of Best Management Practices to help avoid or mitigate threats to species such as Lake Sturgeon or American Eel.

<http://www.ontario.ca/page/grants-protecting-species-risk>

**51. Invading Species Awareness Program**

The province-wide Invading Species Awareness Program has been a joint partnership initiative of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters since 1992. The program focuses on education and outreach as well as programs designed to monitor the occurrence and distribution of invasive species. The Invading Species Awareness Program has involved over 300 partners. The program has worked with the ministry and other partners to develop a web based invasive species tracking system and mobile App ([www.eddmaps.org/Ontario](http://www.eddmaps.org/Ontario)) which will serve as a key prevention tool helping Ontario to detect and track the spread of invasive species.

<http://www.invadingspecies.com/>

**52. Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program**

The Land Stewardship and Habitat Restoration Program (LSHRP) is a competitive funding program through which the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry supports on-the-ground efforts in habitat enhancement and ecological restoration to advance Ontario's biodiversity conservation objectives at a landscape level. The fund is open to incorporated organizations across Ontario, including Aboriginal communities or organizations, conservation organizations, businesses, municipal governments and non-government organizations. Since its launch in 2013, the LSHRP has funded a variety of aquatic-related projects, including stream restoration, riparian plantings, fencing to exclude livestock from lakes and waterways, invasive species control, wetland creation, and fish habitat restoration. The Ministry allocates \$300,000 to the fund annually to meet these biodiversity conservation objectives. Successful applicants are eligible for funding of up to \$20,000 per project, with a 1:1 match funding requirement.

Since 2013, the LSHRP fund has helped to improve, restore or create over 11,886 hectares of area, supported plantings of over 104,504 trees and shrubs, and leveraged over \$2.3M in project partner funding.

[www.ontario.ca/lshrp](http://www.ontario.ca/lshrp)

**Province of Ontario**  
**Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Annual Review 2015**

**53. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture**

The Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV) is a collaborative partnership working together to conserve wetlands and other habitats that are important to waterfowl and other migratory birds. Since 1986, the EHJV has helped to implement habitat conservation programs that support continental waterfowl objectives identified under the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). The Joint Venture also supports the mission of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), an inter-governmental and inter-agency initiative to conserve all native birds and the habitats that support them.

The EHJV, one of 20 Joint Ventures in North America, spans the six eastern-most Canadian provinces: Ontario, Québec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland and Labrador. Ontario EHJV partners include the Government of Canada (Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service), the Government of Ontario (Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs), Ducks Unlimited Canada, the Nature Conservancy of Canada, Bird Studies Canada, and Long Point Waterfowl. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry has provided financial support for wetland conservation by Ontario EHJV partners since 1994.

<http://www.ehiv.ca/>

**54. Ontario Parks Water Conservation Initiatives**

Ontario Parks is responsible for the operation and protection of over 330 parks, covering 8.2 million hectares that attract over 8.5 million visits each year. Over the last few years, Ontario Parks has undertaken a number of initiatives to conserve water use within parks. Initiatives include the use of low-flow fixtures in park washrooms, variable frequency driven distribution pumps, use of low-power hand dryers, solar hot water assist systems and on-demand water heaters to reduce reliance on hydroelectric power, cold water meters in new buildings to monitor water usage, use of polyethylene piping in water distribution systems to reduce leakage, and monitor for water system leakage, identify and make repairs in a timely manner.

[www.ontarioparks.com](http://www.ontarioparks.com)