

STATE OF OHIO
WATER CONSERVATION & EFFICIENCY PROGRAM
ANNUAL ASSESSMENT

December 8, 2019

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

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

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

3. Water Conservation & Efficiency Program Overview. Ohio’s implementing laws, regulations and policies are contained in the Compact, codified in §1522.01 of the Ohio Revised Code (ORC), and its state implementing provisions, codified by ORC §§1522.02–.40. ORC §1522.05 requires the Chief of the Division to adopt voluntary watershed-wide goals, objectives, and standards for water conservation and efficiency consistent with Section 4.2 of the Compact. ORC §1522.17 requires an applicant for a water withdrawal & consumptive use permit to submit a facility water conservation plan that, if it reasonably incorporates environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation measures applicable to the facility, will be considered to be in compliance with Section 4.11.3 of the Compact. All other elements of Ohio’s water conservation & efficiency program are voluntary, except those authorized by pre-existing statutes, regulations, or programs. The only state program that provides for mandatory water use reductions is the Ohio Emergency Management Agency’s Emergency Operations Plan (authorized by ORC §5502.22), and then only when the Governor declares a Level Four Drought Emergency. The Emergency Operations Plan-Drought Incident Annex can be viewed online at [Ohio Drought Incident Annex](#).

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

4. Consistency with Regional Objectives

Objective	Program Element
Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use	<p>An ODNR program to coordinate existing state & local government water conservation programs continues to be developed; existing state & local program documents are being compiled & assessed</p> <p>Water management plans have been completed for the Lake Erie Basin watersheds, including water resource inventory & assessment, analysis of water use trends and formulation of water use forecasts, and identification of potential water shortage areas</p> <p>Required best management practices for nutrient management to improve water quality in the western Lake Erie Basin have been adopted in Ohio statute, which can be viewed online at ORC §1511.10</p> <p>ODNR is working with the Golf Course Superintendents Association to develop best management practices for irrigation water conservation</p>
Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources	<p>A report has been prepared for the Ohio Lake Erie Commission and ODNR by a study team from the Cleveland State University entitled “Water Resources Shaping Ohio’s Future: Water Efficiency Manual for Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Facilities.” The full report can be viewed on the water conservation webpage on ODNR’s Compact website at CSU-Full Report; the Technical Report can be viewed at CSU-Technical Report</p> <p>An ODNR program is being developed to encourage water conservation and provide technical assistance to water users who want to voluntarily implement conservation practices</p>
Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state & provincial water conservation & efficiency programs	<p>Water use information for registered withdrawals continues to be collected, analyzed, and reported for the various categories of water use</p> <p>Continued beta testing of an online water-use reporting website is in progress, allowing registered facilities easy access to their reporting history and furthering the water user’s ability to track their own water conservation practices</p>
Develop science, technology, and research	<p>Opportunities for research & development related to water conservation & efficiency and the interaction between ground water & surface water resources are being investigated; modeling of impacts on aquifers resulting from the mining of industrial minerals are being undertaken</p>
Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users	<p>Current water conservation & efficiency education programs continue to:</p> <p>Provide updated printed material conveniently accessible to the public containing information on water conservation & efficiency; the water conservation webpage can be viewed online on ODNR’s Compact website under Water Conservation & Efficiency Webpage.</p> <p>Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) Educator’s workshops were conducted by Ohio EPA. These workshops include water conservation as part of the curriculum. A workshop will be held in the Lake Erie basin in the spring of 2020.</p>

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