

Proposed Ontario Water Conservation and Efficiency Goals, Objectives and Programs

Update: March 3, 2011

The Ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources have been working collaboratively to meet Ontario's commitment under the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement) to develop water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives as well as to develop and begin implementing programs to achieve the goals and objectives. This document sets out the conservation goals, our proposed objectives and index of programs.

Ontario's Water Conservation Goals, Objectives and Programs

Based on extensive stakeholder consultations over the past three years, MOE and MNR have worked together to finalize proposed Ontario goals and objectives as well as program description. Ontario's goals are identical to the goals in the Agreement. Ontario's objectives are consistent with the regional objectives and have been tailored 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. A document that describes Ontario's current programs consisting of legislation, regulations, plans, policies, and guidance to support Ontario's water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives will be submitted to the Regional Body, once finalized.

Ontario's proposed water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives, as well as list of programs are as follows:

GOALS (as stated in the *Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement*)

1. Ensuring improvement of the waters and water dependent natural resources;
2. Protecting and restoring the hydrologic and ecosystem integrity of the Basin;
3. Retaining the quantity of surface water and groundwater in the Basin;
4. Ensuring sustainable use of waters of the Basin; and,
5. Promoting the efficiency of use and reducing losses and waste of water.

Objectives	
<p>1. Guide programs toward long-term sustainable water use and management including taking ecosystem needs for water into account.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Use adaptive programs that are goal-based, accountable and measurable over time. b. Develop and implement programs openly and collaboratively, including with local stakeholders, Aboriginal people, governments and the public. c. Prepare and maintain long-term water demand forecasts. d. Conduct and improve multi-scale water budgets and water quantity risk assessments. e. Develop long-term strategies that incorporate water conservation and efficient water use and integrate them with other environmental management practices and considerations such as energy use, climate change, and the protection and restoration of hydrological and ecological integrity. f. Review and build on existing programs and planning efforts and consider other jurisdictions' practices and experiences.
<p>2. Adopt and implement supply and demand management to promote efficient use and conservation of water resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maximize water use efficiency and minimize waste of water. b. Promote appropriate innovative water, wastewater and stormwater technologies and services. c. Conserve and manage existing water supplies to prevent or delay the demand for and development of additional supplies. d. Provide incentives to encourage efficient water use and conservation. e. Include water conservation and efficiency in the review of proposed new or increased uses. f. Promote investment in and maintenance of efficient water infrastructure and green infrastructure.
<p>3. Improve monitoring and standardize data reporting among state and provincial water conservation and efficiency programs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve and increase the measurement and evaluation of water conservation and water use efficiency. b. Encourage measures to monitor, account and report on water loss. c. Track and report program progress and effectiveness. d. Monitor and collect information related to the waters of Ontario. e. Collect and report water use information
<p>4. Develop science, technology and research.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage the identification and sharing of innovative water, wastewater and stormwater management practices and technologies. b. Encourage research, development and implementation of water conservation and efficiency technologies, services and standards. c. Seek and involve traditional knowledge and practices of Aboriginal people in Ontario. d. Strengthen scientific understanding of the linkages between water

Objectives	
	<p>resources and use, water conservation practices, and ecological needs and responses</p> <p>e. Increase understanding of water and its movement including groundwater and its interaction with surface water, and the effects of climate change on water resources.</p>
<p>5. Develop education programs and information sharing for all water users.</p>	<p>a. Ensure equitable public access to water conservation and efficiency tools and information.</p> <p>b. Inform, educate and increase awareness regarding the importance of water to life, and the need for conservation and efficient water use.</p> <p>c. Promote the cost-saving aspect of water conservation and efficiency for both short-term and long-term economic sustainability.</p> <p>d. Share conservation and efficiency experiences, including successes and lessons learned.</p> <p>e. Enhance and contribute to regional information sharing.</p> <p>f. Encourage and increase training opportunities in collaboration with professional or other organizations in order to increase water conservation and efficiency practices and technological applications.</p> <p>g. Ensure that conservation programs are transparent and that information is readily available.</p> <p>h. Aid in the development and dissemination of sector-based best management practices and results achieved.</p> <p>i. Seek opportunities for the sharing of traditional knowledge and practices of Aboriginal people.</p>

Index of Current Ontario Programs (as of February 28, 2011)

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

Guide Programs Toward Long-Term Sustainable Water Use and Management Including Taking Ecosystem Needs For Water into Account

1. Ontario Water Resources Act and the Water Taking Regulation
2. Clean Water Act, 2006
3. Conservation Authority Watershed Management, Source Water Protection
4. Water Budget Studies
5. The Lakes and Rivers Improvement Act, 1990
6. Endangered Species Act
7. Ontario Great Lakes Wetland Conservation Action Plan
8. The Greenbelt Plan
9. Ontario's Biodiversity Strategy
10. Remedial Action Plans
11. Canada-Ontario Agreement Respecting the Great Lakes Basin Ecosystem
12. Joint Strategic Plan for the Management of Great Lakes Fisheries

Adopt and Implement Supply and Demand Management to Promote Efficient Use and Conservation of Water Resources

13. Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010
14. Financial Plans Regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act
15. Building Code Act, 1992 and the Building Code
16. Green Energy Act, 2009
17. Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan, 2002
18. Places to Grow Act, 2005
19. Lake Simcoe Protection Plan
20. Provincial Policy Statement (2005)
21. Municipal Stormwater Management Systems
22. Ontario Small Waterworks Assistance Program
23. 2011 Premier's Catalyst Award

Improve Monitoring and Standardize Data Reporting Among State and Provincial Water Conservation and Efficiency Programs

24. Ontario Low Water Response
25. Ontario Surface Water Monitoring
26. Groundwater Monitoring, Modelling and Mapping
27. Water Use Reporting
28. Water Resources Information Program
29. Ecological Framework for Recreational Fisheries Management in Ontario

30. The Ontario Geological Survey's Groundwater Mapping Program
31. Climate Change Modelling and Weather and Water Information Gateway
32. Lakewide Management Plans

Develop Science, Technology and Research

33. Capital Investment Plan Act, 1993
34. Innovation Demonstration Fund
35. Green Focus on Innovation and Technology
36. Ontario Research Fund - Research Excellence Water Round
37. New Directions Research Program
38. Anishinabek/Ontario Fisheries Resource Centre
39. Ontario's Climate Change Adaptation

Develop Education Programs and Information Sharing For All Water Users

40. Anishinabek / Ontario Great Lakes Agreement Implementation Memorandum of Understanding
41. Water Efficiency Labelling
42. Best Management Practices
43. Water and Energy Conservation at Sewage Works Manual
44. Canada-Ontario Environmental Farm Plan
45. Species at Risk Stewardship Fund
46. Invading Species Awareness Program
47. Ontario Stewardship Program
48. Community Fisheries and Wildlife Involvement Program
49. Eastern Habitat Joint Venture
50. Ontario Parks Water Conservation Initiatives

