



GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE CITIES INITIATIVE
ALLIANCE DES VILLES DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

RESOLUTION 5 – 2007M

WATER CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes, including Lakes Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, and the St. Lawrence River are national and international treasures vital to the region;

WHEREAS, these treasures are shared common resources between the citizens of Canada and the United States;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is the premier freshwater system in the world, containing almost twenty percent of the world's surface freshwater supply and providing drinking water to over thirty-five million Canadian and United States citizens;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River are also vital to the region in terms of industry, recreation, and their value as natural habitats;

WHEREAS, only one percent of this resource is renewed each year;

WHEREAS, improper water management could cause irreversible damage to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystem;

WHEREAS, water is needlessly wasted through the use of inefficient appliances throughout the Great Lake and St. Lawrence River Basin;

WHEREAS, climate change is accelerating the year-round evaporation of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence surface waters;

WHEREAS, water treatment and distribution is one of the highest energy consumption activities within municipal operations;

WHEREAS, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members recognize the need to conserve water actively and use it efficiently and agree that growth, conservation, and efficiency can occur simultaneously;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative launched the Water Conservation Framework in 2007 which urges cities to work towards achieving a fifteen percent reduction below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015 and



encourages more cities to implement water conservation programs by fostering a best practices network;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative commends the Governors and Premiers of the eight Great Lakes states and two provinces for their work in developing the regional water conservation and efficiency objectives called for in Article 304(1) of the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and looks forward to further revisions to the objectives to ensure a focused, timely approach to regional water conservation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative members reiterate the need for cities to continue leading water conservation and efficiency efforts and encourage further municipal involvement in the Water Conservation Framework; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative continues to promote its Water Conservation Framework amongst its members and other Great Lakes and St. Lawrence cities through promotional materials and presentations to municipal councils; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages municipalities to include water conservation and efficiency measures in their energy efficiency and climate change plans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative encourages other levels of government to work closely with municipalities to explore how they can introduce measures that would directly help municipalities reach their water conservation goals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative calls on federal and state and provincial governments in Canada and the United States to adopt measures to ban the sale of water-inefficient toilets, and other water inefficient household appliances.

Signed this 12th day of July, 2007

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mayor Gary Becker". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Gary Becker, Chair
Mayor of Racine

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative