



Great Lakes Cities Initiative

GREAT LAKES CITIES INITIATIVE
RESOLUTION

Mayors from the United States and Canada, as members of Great Lakes Cities Initiative, wishing to advance the cause of restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, find that:

The Great Lakes are a resource shared by the United States and Canada which have immeasurable value not only to the two countries but also are significant worldwide;

The Great Lakes have nearly 20 percent of the surface fresh water in the world and over 90% of the total for the United States and Canada;

The Great Lakes Basin is an ecosystem that supports diverse and abundant life and contributes significantly to the economy and overall well being of the people and communities in the Basin;

Successful restoration and protection of the Great Lakes can result only if all levels of government cooperate fully with one another, as well as with the private and non-governmental sectors; and

There are numerous significant threats to the integrity of the Great Lakes ecosystem that could cause long-term, irreparable damage to the resource.

Based on these findings, the Great Lakes mayors resolve:

Restoration and protection of the Great Lakes are high priorities for their communities individually, and for the broader community of Great Lakes cities in the United States and Canada;

Federal, state, provincial, tribal, and first nation governments need to recognize the importance of the role of local governments in restoring and protecting the Great Lakes, and include local representatives in the key decision making;

Local governments commit to working closely and cooperatively with federal, state, provincial, tribal, and first nation governments to protect and restore the Great Lakes.