



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

**Resolution 5 – 2012M**

**Sustainable Municipal Water Management**

**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system is a significant natural resource upon which we rely for our drinking water, the economic health and vitality of the region, energy production, and recreation; and

**WHEREAS**, despite great strides in protection and restoration efforts over the last thirty years, the system continues to face threats and challenges including from our daily use and management of the water; and

**WHEREAS** the public is becoming increasingly aware of the importance of responsible water stewardship and reporting publicly on corporate water management performance is quickly becoming as essential as reporting on greenhouse gas emissions among some major corporate water users; and

**WHEREAS**, municipalities as major water users and water managers are uniquely positioned to lead by example with respect to sustainable water management given their daily interaction with the system through a number of municipal operations and functions, including providing drinking water, managing and overseeing sewer systems and infrastructure, managing and developing shorelines and waterfronts, land use planning, and preparing and adapting their communities for the effects of climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities recognize the need to ensure these precious water resources are protected, restored, and managed in a sustainable manner to ensure the livelihood and well-being of the citizens of the region as well as the ecosystem of the basin; and

**WHEREAS**, Great Lakes and St. Lawrence municipalities recognize that progress and improvement can be made with respect to how municipalities, businesses, industry, institutions, and private citizens alike manage our water resources and that it must be a collaborative effort among all who use and benefit from the water; and

**WHEREAS**, by reporting publicly on their water management performance over time, municipalities will benefit from public feedback and can play an important role in encouraging other water users to reduce their water footprint and more sustainably manage their water use; can inform being more transparent in their reporting of municipal water management; and



**WHEREAS**, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative, through extensive input from member municipalities through the Green CiTTS (Cities Transforming Towards Sustainability) program, developed the *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Principles* which represent outcomes related to sustainable water management that all municipalities can strive towards, including the *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Scorecard* which is a means to report to the public on municipal water management; and

**WHEREAS**, the *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Principles* are as follows:

1. Water Conservation and Efficiency - *Conserve water to protect and sustain our water supply*
2. Shared Water Stewardship – *Promote shared responsibility for water protection*
3. Shoreline and Waterways Restoration – *Protect and restore healthy, natural shorelines and waterways*
4. Water Pollution Prevention – *Prevent the introduction of harmful substances into Great Lakes and St. Lawrence tributaries*
5. Water Protection Planning - *Integrate water protection and ecological features and functions into municipal and regional watershed planning*
6. Water Preparedness for Climate Change - *Prepare for water-related impacts triggered by climate change*

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the members of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative endorse the *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Principles* as an important declaration and measure of municipal water management performance; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that members of the Cities Initiative will endeavor to continuously improve their performance in each of the six areas identified in the principles, recognizing that each municipality is beginning at a different stage in each of the six areas and will may make progress at varying rates; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that members of the Cities Initiative will use the *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Scorecard* and/or incorporate elements of it into their ongoing reporting, in order to report publicly on their progress towards achieving *Sustainable Municipal Water Management Principles*, as appropriate.

Signed this 27<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2012

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Brian McMullan, Chair  
Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
Mayor of St. Catharines