

# Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative

## Water Conservation Framework



### What is the Water Conservation Framework?

The Framework is a voluntary program in which cities commit to reducing water use within their jurisdictions. Cities will work towards a 15 percent reduction in total water usage below year 2000 levels by the year 2015.

Since its launch in 2007, 33 participants continue to make progress towards meeting water conservation goals. **To date, almost half of the participants have collectively achieved a 7 percent reduction in water use, below year 2000 levels.**

### Participating cities

Ajax, ON	Grand Rapids, MI	Region of Peel, ON
Beaconsfield, QC	Goderich, ON	Rochester, NY
Blue Mountains, ON	Hamilton, ON	Sault Ste. Marie, ON
Buffalo, NY	Kingston, ON	St. Catharines, ON
Châteauguay, QC	Marathon, ON	Sheffield Lake, OH
Chicago, IL	Marquette, MI	Sorel-Tracy, QC
Cobourg, ON	Monroe, MI	Thunder Bay, ON
Collingwood, ON	Montréal, QC	Toledo, OH
Durham Region, ON	Niagara Region, ON	Toronto, ON
Ferrysburg, MI	Penetanguishene, ON	Wind Point, WI
Fort Erie, ON	Québec Metro Community, QC	Windsor, ON

### How does water conservation benefit the Great Lakes, the St. Lawrence and cities?

Beyond conserving freshwater resources, some general benefits of water conservation include:

- *Energy savings* from using less energy for heating, pumping, and treating water;
- *Less wastewater* resulting from reduced water usage, which cuts sewer service costs;
- *Water conservation is also cost effective*—for the supplier and the consumer.

### Water Conservation Best Practices to Consider:

**Chicago** targets a replacement rate of approximately 1% of the system's 4,230 miles of pipe each year. This saves water and energy.

#### Watermain Rehabilitation

Detecting leaks and rehabilitating watermains conserves water and saves money from avoiding capital expenditures on large infrastructure projects.

**Rochester** has dedicated crews to leak detection and water consumption management. The use of mechanical, acoustical and electric leak detection equipment has helped the city reduce its lost water.

#### Universal Metering

Water metering leads to a change in behavior by allowing customers to better track their consumption and thereby reduce water use.

**St. Catharines** offers free water conservation presentations to all city schools, targeting grades 4-6 to educate students about the water cycle, societal use of water and water conservation techniques.

#### Public Education & Outreach

Public education is essential to any city's water conservation plan. Increased consumer awareness has the ability to change water consumption behavior.

**Toronto's** WaterSaver program includes a Capacity Buy-Back program that allows the city to buy back water or sewer capacity from businesses that reduce water use. The program helps businesses identify areas where they are wasting water and offers solutions and cash incentives.

#### Financial Incentives/Appliance Rebate Programs

Monetary incentives motivate consumers to change their water use. Efficient household appliances save energy and water.

For more information please visit: [www.glslcities.org/watercons.htm](http://www.glslcities.org/watercons.htm) or contact Melissa Soline at [melissa.soline@glslcities.org](mailto:melissa.soline@glslcities.org) or 312.201.4517