



**The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative** is a major, positive presence in decision making and actions related to the greatest freshwater resource in the world. Since its founding in 2003, the organization has provided a powerful, collective voice for our region's mayors and helped protect, restore, and sustain the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and strengthen the economic vitality of the cities along their shores.

The Cities Initiative's major accomplishments include:

- Forging a coalition of close to 128 mayors representing more than 17 million residents, spanning two countries, two provinces and eight states – all speaking with one voice;
- Increasing the regional profile of member mayors and their municipalities and gaining recognition for their accomplishments in protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River;
- Leading federal funding initiatives in Canada and the United States for critically needed climate adaptation, water infrastructure and erosion mitigation programs;
- Drawing attention to the vital connection between environmental health and economic prosperity; and
- Building awareness on key priorities, such as ballast water control and invasive species protection, water level fluctuations, shoreline erosion, public access to waterfronts, effective beach standards, infrastructure investment, and revitalization of contaminated sites.

**The Cities Initiative represents and speaks on behalf of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River mayors in important regional agencies, committees and boards, including the:**

International Joint Commission  
Great Lakes Fishery Commission  
Great Lakes Commission  
Great Lakes Advisory Board  
Great Lakes Executive Committee  
among others



## Over the years the Cities Initiative has influenced the policy agenda for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, including the following accomplishments:

- **Asian Carp Protection** – Worked collaboratively with the Great Lakes Commission and Great Lakes Fishery Commission to prevent Asian carp and other invasive species from moving through the Chicago Area Waterway System between the Mississippi River basin and the Great Lakes;
- **Economic Stimulus** – Advocated for billions of dollars in economic stimulus funds to accelerate recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic;
- **Sustainability** – Implemented the Green Cities Transforming Towards Sustainability program (Green CiTTS) to promote and expand sustainable practices by providing training, funding, research opportunities and demonstration projects focused on stormwater management, sustainable municipal water management and climate adaptation and resiliency;
- **Climate Change Resiliency and Adaptation** – Developed a one-stop service to provide data, share best practices and help cities adapt to climate change;
- **Beaches** – Advanced beach management awareness and implementation of best practices to reduce toxins while protecting environmental and public health;
- **Microbeads** – Encouraged the creation of laws banning plastic microbeads from personal care products, leading to a recent nationwide ban in the United States and in Canada;
- **Great Lakes Restoration Initiative** – Helped create and sustain this highly successful restoration program, which has invested nearly \$4 billion to restore the Great Lakes, including cleaning up the most heavily degraded areas in Great Lakes cities;
- **Action Plan to Protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence 2020-2030** – Collaborated with other regional organizations to recommend key initiatives to guide Canadian policy for the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River;
- **Memorandum of Cooperation for the Canada-Ontario Agreement** – Signed an agreement with the Ontario Ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs establishing a strategic partnership between municipalities and government to collaborate on Great Lakes decisions;
- **Canada Water Agency** – Supported the creation of the new agency and contributed to the development of its policies and programs;
- **Water Conservation Framework** – Launched an effort to reduce water use in cities by 15% between 2000 and 2015, with members collectively reducing water consumption by 19%, saving over 123 billion gallons of water;
- **Water Equity Initiative** – Leading the way in strengthening water equity in some of the most underserved communities in our region. Fighting to eliminate lead water lines in city infrastructure, modernize water delivery and ensure affordable water for all residents in our region; and
- **Coast Guard Live Fire Exercises** – Led a successful effort to stop U.S. Coast Guard live-fire exercises on the Great Lakes, which were adding large amounts of lead and other contaminants to the water.



## Membership Application Form

I would like to join with other mayors from the United States and Canada, all around the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River, to advance the protection and restoration of this outstanding resource. The quality of life and economic well being of our citizens and visitors are closely tied to maintaining the integrity of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River in the future.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	City

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Mayor	Email Address

### Mayor Contact Information:

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Address (No. and Street)	City, State/Province, Postal/Zip Code
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Phone No. (XXX-XXX-XXXX)	Cell No. (XXX-XXX-XXXX)
<input type="text"/>	City Website

### Primary Staff Contact Information:

<input type="text"/>		
Name and Title		
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	
Address (No. and Street)	City, State/Province, Postal/Zip Code	
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Email Address	Phone No. (XXX-XXX-XXXX)	Cell No. (XXX-XXX-XXXX)

*The Cities Initiative offers a 25% discount on first-year membership dues.*

Population of City	Annual Dues	25% DISCOUNT	Population of City	Annual Dues	25% DISCOUNT
<input type="radio"/> 0—1,000	\$550	<b>\$412.50</b>	<input type="radio"/> 75,000—100,000	\$5,500	<b>\$4,125.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 1,000—2,500	\$1,100	<b>\$825.00</b>	<input type="radio"/> 100,000—250,000	\$7,700	<b>\$5,775.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 2,500—5,000	\$1,650	<b>\$1,237.50</b>	<input type="radio"/> 250,000—500,000	\$11,000	<b>\$8,250.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 5,000—10,000	\$2,200	<b>\$1,650.00</b>	<input type="radio"/> 500,000—1,000,000	\$16,500	<b>\$12,375.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 10,000—25,000	\$2,750	<b>\$2,062.50</b>	<input type="radio"/> 1,000,000—2,000,000	\$22,000	<b>\$16,500.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 25,000—50,000	\$3,300	<b>\$2,475.00</b>	<input type="radio"/> 2,000,000—3,000,000	\$27,500	<b>\$20,625.00</b>
<input type="radio"/> 50,000—75,000	\$4,400	<b>\$3,300.00</b>			

*Canadian dues will be paid in Canadian dollars and U.S. dues in U.S. dollars. Counties or Regions may join at half the price if cities representing more than half of their population are already members.*

**Please remit checks to:**  
Great Lakes & St. Lawrence Cities Initiative  
P.O. Box 1332 New Lenox, IL 60451

**For more information contact:**  
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