Building a Resilient Great Lakes Basin

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What is the Great Lakes Commission?

- A public agency established by the Great Lakes Basin Compact in 1955

- In 1968, Congress passed an act authorizing its consent to the Compact and the interstate compact agency.

- Ontario and Québec officially joined as associate members in 1999

- Allows its Member states and provinces speak with a unified voice and to reach consensus on and advocate for the region’s priorities
Who is the Great Lakes Commission?

- **Commissioners**: 3-5 from each of the 10 states and provinces
- **Board of Directors**: 1 from each state / province delegation
- **Chair**: Todd Ambs, Wisconsin
- **Professional Staff**
GLC Actions on Climate Resilience

2019: Special Committee on Climate Resilience
- Scope resilience effort
- Develop Framework for Action

2020: Establish Standing Committee
- GLC Adopts *Framework for Action*
- Define Great Lakes Resilience; Develop Goals through Logic Model Process

2021: Define GLC Role & Develop Action Plan
- GLC Resolution on Climate Resilience
- Finalize Draft Action Plan for Stakeholder Feedback
Defining a Resilient Great Lakes Basin

GLC Definition:

A resilient Great Lakes Basin is one in which communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, and the economy can withstand, adapt to, and recover from climate-related stressors and changing conditions to ensure equitable and inclusive social, economic, and environmental well-being across the Basin.
Draft Action Plan: Goals

• Individuals and Communities are healthy, thriving, and adapted to the effects of changing conditions and climate-related stressors.

• Buildings and infrastructure are safe and can withstand the effects of a changing conditions and climate-related stressors.

• Ecosystems are healthy throughout the Great Lakes Basin from changing conditions and climate-related stressors.

• Environmental and public services support economic activity and building resiliency.
Goal: Individuals & Communities

• Recommended Actions:
  o The Great Lakes community shares ongoing projects to understand cumulative effort and gaps related to climate resilience
  o The Great Lakes community engages in active listening to incorporate local input to assess needs, concerns, and potential solutions. Connecting community concerns with elected officials.

• Recommended Outputs:
  o GLC establishes regular meetings for the Great Lakes community to share expertise and coordinate on activities related to climate resilience
  o Federal, state, provincial, and municipal authorities utilize a common forum (including a diverse cross-section of community members) to coordinate resilience efforts at a watershed level. The GLC could help facilitate this forum.
Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

- **Recommended Action:**
  - Great Lakes community convenes forum to share best practices and identify opportunities for collaboration related to coastal resilience

- **Recommended Output:**
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completes the Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study to identify coastal areas that could be vulnerable to climate-related stressors, identify range approaches to improve coastal resilience, establish a collaborative framework to support the effective management of coastal resources, and identify, select, and prioritize future coastal investments
Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

• Recommended Action:
  
  o GLC advocates for investments in the Great Lakes Navigation System that increase system resilience to changing conditions

• Recommended Output:
  
  o The Great Lakes community develops climate resilience plan/roadmap for maritime transportation infrastructure
Goal: Buildings & Infrastructure

• Recommended Action:
  
  o GLC advocates for water infrastructure investments by the U.S. federal government that respond to and address climate stressors in the Great Lakes basin

• Recommended Output:
  
  o GLC develops an infrastructure blueprint for the Great Lakes basin to guide future investments
Goal: Ecosystems

• Recommended Actions:
  o GLC convenes forum for the Great Lakes community to share experience and expertise related to ecosystem restoration, protection, and management
  o GLC advocates for ecosystem restoration, protection, and management investment by federal governments

• Recommended Outputs:
  o States and provinces share best practices on shoreline planning, development, and management on a basin-wide scale
  o GLC provides a resilient ecosystems blueprint to inform regional investments
Goal: Economy

• Recommended Action:
  
  o Convene private sector, state, provincial, local & regional economic development entities to discuss/highlight opportunities related to the blue economy

• Recommended Output:
  
  o GLC engages state, provincial, local, and regional economic development entities to implement the *Action Plan for Growing the Great Lakes Blue Economy*
Goal: Economy

• Recommended Actions:
  o GLC evaluates and publicizes economic impact of resilient investments in the Great Lakes
  o GLC identifies suitable case studies from the public and private sectors to showcase transferability and lessons learned
  o GLC assesses regional clusters/regional development plans to identify best practices, identify innovative financing options for localities

• Recommended Outputs:
  o GLC partners with Great Lakes community to highlight economic impact of new and existing resilient infrastructure investments
  o GLC partners with Great Lakes community to flag areas of higher risk & connect businesses and local governments to assessments
  o GLC partners with Great Lakes community to highlight new and existing climate resilience efforts via the Blue Accounting platform
Additional Goals

• Capacity Building
  o Regional needs assessments, workshops, and blueprints

• Data & Evaluation
  o Interactive resource library

• Measuring Progress
  o Blue Accounting
Thank you!

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