



Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence: United States and Canada Synopsis

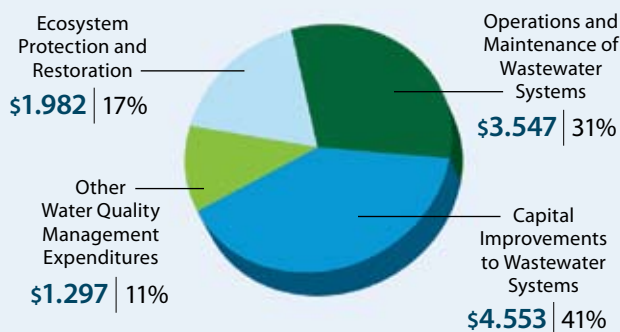
Protecting the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River

The Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River system holds 20 percent of the world’s surface freshwater and 84 percent of the surface water supply in North America. As a source of drinking water, food, transportation, water for industry, agriculture, recreation and many other uses, its value and importance are immeasurable. To ensure the stewardship of this finite water resource, all orders of government, along with industry, agriculture, and citizens must work together to protect and restore it. Local governments are doing their part. Data from a 2008 study by the Great Lakes Commission in collaboration with the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative indicate that local governments invest more than \$15 billion annually in Great Lakes and St. Lawrence protection and restoration activities.¹

Local Investment – U.S.

Local governments in the United States invest more than \$11 billion in Great Lakes protection and restoration activities. Of that amount, a large majority (\$9.4 billion) is dedicated to water quality management activities including capital improvements, operations and maintenance of wastewater systems. The remaining investments go to ecosystem protection and restoration activities such as greenspace protection, recycling and reuse programs, and brownfields cleanup.

U.S. Local Investments in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence: \$11.4 Billion (in billions of U.S. dollars)



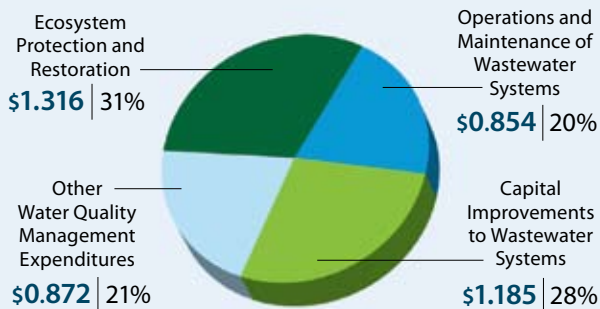
Annual U.S. Local Government Investments in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (Estimates in millions of dollars)

Water Quality Management	U.S.
Capital Improvements to Wastewater Systems	4,553
Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Systems	3,547
Other Water Quality Management Expenditures	1,297
Sub-total	9,397
Ecosystem Protection and Restoration	
Greenspace Protection	598
Recycling and Reuse	519
Brownfields Cleanup	261
Comprehensive Planning & Smart Growth Efforts	167
Energy Conservation & Alternatives	137
Beach and Shoreline Management	133
Alternate Transportation Methods & Practices	62
Hazardous Waste Management	27
Landfill Monitoring and Leachate Management	25
Best Management Practices for Ports & Marinas	23
Air Quality Management	9
Public Education to Enhance/Protect Coastal Health	9
Prevention & Control of Invasive Species	7
Fish Population Maintenance	3
Best Management Practices for De-icing	2
Sub-total	1,982
Grand Total	11,379

Local Investment – Canada

Local governments in Canada invest more than \$4 billion in Great Lakes protection and restoration activities, half of which are invested in wastewater systems.

Canadian Local Investments in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence: \$4.2 Billion (in billions of U.S. dollars)



Ontario

In the province of Ontario, local governments invest over \$3 billion to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. Nearly half of the total local investment (\$1.4 billion), goes toward capital improvements and the operation and maintenance of wastewater systems.

Other ecosystem protection and restoration activities that receive a large portion of the total local investment include alternative transportation, greenspace protection and recycling and reuse programs.

Québec

Local governments in the province of Québec invest over \$1 billion annually in the protection and restoration of the St. Lawrence River. Capital improvements and the operation and maintenance of wastewater systems make up nearly half of the total local investment (\$0.6 billion). Recycling and reuse programs, greenspace protection and alternative transportation are included in other ecosystem protection and restoration activities that receive a large portion of the total local investment.

Annual Ontario and Québec Local Government Investments in the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence (Estimates in millions of dollars)

Water Quality Management	Ontario	Québec
Capital Improvements to Wastewater Systems	860	325
Operation and Maintenance of Wastewater Systems	601	253
Other Water Quality Management Expenditures	618	254
Sub-total	2,079	832

Ecosystem Protection and Restoration

	Ontario	Québec
Alternate Transportation Methods & Practices	292	85
Greenspace Protection	245	87
Recycling and Reuse	212	91
Energy Conservation & Alternatives	112	39
Landfill Monitoring and Leachate Management	21	7
Comprehensive Planning & Smart Growth Efforts	17	8
Public Education to Enhance/Protect Coastal Health	17	5
Hazardous Waste Management	13	5
Brownfields Cleanup	13	4
Best Management Practices for De-icing	11	3
Prevention & Control of Invasive Species	7	2
Air Quality Management	7	4
Beach and Shoreline Management	4	1
Fish Population Maintenance	1	1
Best Management Practices for Ports & Marinas	1	1
Sub-total	973	343
Grand Total	3,052	1,175

Partners in securing the future of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

Strong federal, state, provincial and local partnerships are needed to protect and restore the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River for years to come. It is critical for all orders of government to work together, along with other stakeholders, to ensure the health and vitality of this freshwater system. Local governments encourage others to join them in their commitment to invest in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River and the future of the region.

¹ Great Lakes Commission. 2008. *Local Investment in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence*. Retrieved from <http://glc.org/glinvestment/pdf/local-investment-report-final-sm.pdf>. This report featured the results and analysis of a 2007 survey of 688 of local governments in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin. Survey response rate was 21 percent. See Chapter 6 for survey methods. Survey results were extrapolated here to all local governments in the Great Lakes - St. Lawrence basin with a population size of 20,000 or greater.

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