



# Blue Accounting

## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO PROTECT, RESTORE AND USE THE GREAT LAKES

[www.blueaccounting.org](http://www.blueaccounting.org)

### WHAT IS BLUE ACCOUNTING?

**Blue Accounting is an information service to track the region's progress toward shared goals for the Great Lakes.** Maintained by

the [Great Lakes Commission](#), the information developed by Blue Accounting helps elected officials make sure that policies and programs are effective at protecting the largest fresh surface water system on earth.

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**Blue Accounting harnesses data and regional coordination to tackle the biggest challenges facing the Great Lakes.**

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Currently Blue Accounting is tracking progress on: [protecting the region from aquatic invasive species](#); [safeguarding drinking water](#); [keeping phosphorus out of Lake Erie](#); [supporting maritime transportation](#); and [conserving critical coastal wetlands](#).

### HOW BLUE ACCOUNTING WORKS

The Great Lakes Commission's Blue Accounting team [works with experts to identify goals and methods to track progress](#) on key Great Lakes

issues. In the case of reducing phosphorus in Lake Erie, Blue Accounting tracks progress toward the binational goal of reducing phosphorus in the lake by 40 percent by reporting how much of the nutrient is entering the lake from select rivers, as well as sharing information on government efforts.



### BLUE ACCOUNTING IN ACTION

Blue Accounting's ErieStat supports binational efforts under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement by tracking progress toward phosphorus reduction goals for Lake Erie. The jurisdictions have agreed to reduce phosphorus loads from priority watersheds to the lake by 40% (from 2008) levels.

ErieStat charts water quality data revealing the relationship between very wet years, phosphorus losses to the lake, and resulting algal blooms in Lake Erie's western basin.

### WHO IS BLUE ACCOUNTING

The [Great Lakes Commission](#) leads Blue Accounting, in partnership with federal, state, provincial, local, non-governmental, and private sector organizations. Blue Accounting was launched in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy and has received generous support from [Charles Stewart Mott Foundation](#), the [Fred A. and Barbara M. Erb Family Foundation](#), the [Joyce Foundation](#), and the [Herbert H. and Grace A. Dow Foundation](#).