



Blue Accounting

TRACKING THE REGION'S PROGRESS TOWARD SHARED GOALS FOR THE GREAT LAKES

www.blueaccounting.org

WHAT IS BLUE ACCOUNTING?

Blue Accounting is an information service that tracks the region's efforts to tackle critical issues facing the Great Lakes. Currently these issues include stopping aquatic invasive species; reducing nutrients that contribute to harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie; and safeguarding drinking water.

HOW BLUE ACCOUNTING WORKS

Great Lakes Commission staff works with experts to identify goals and track progress on key Great Lakes issues. Blue Accounting starts with diverse work groups that include representatives of the state, provincial and federal governments, as well as the academic, nonprofit and private sectors. Connecting leading

Connecting leading scientists and policy experts across sectors is one of the key values Blue Accounting brings to the region.

scientists and policy experts across sectors is one of the key values Blue Accounting brings to the region.

The Great Lakes Commission asks these diverse groups to identify available data, share information about their efforts, and help translate those pieces into the information our region's leaders need when making decisions that impact Great Lakes restoration and protection.

HOW BLUE ACCOUNTING TRACKS PROGRESS

The Blue Accounting website, www.blueaccounting.org, features pages for each of the Great Lakes, each state or province, and each issue tracked by Blue Accounting. Users can also explore our resource library and data portal.

The top of each page identifies shared regional goals being examined by Blue Accounting work groups, as well as metrics. Goals are considered mutually desired outcomes, while metrics are the tools used to track progress toward a goal. If no goals are visible on a page, they have not yet been identified for that issue, jurisdiction, or lake.

For goals and metrics with an established, regionally-agreed upon target, a gauge is used to show progress toward that target. For metrics without a defined target, information is compiled and made available as potential targets are considered.

WHO IS BLUE ACCOUNTING

Blue Accounting is a service of the Great Lakes Commission, a binational government agency established in 1955 to protect the Great Lakes and the economies and ecosystems they support. Its membership includes leaders from the eight U.S. states and two Canadian provinces in the Great Lakes basin.

Blue Accounting has received generous support from the [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](#). The [Nature Conservancy](#) and [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#) also contributed significant resources and expertise to Blue Accounting's development.