



Blue Accounting Source Water

PROTECTING DRINKING WATER AT ITS SOURCE

www.blueaccounting.org

AN INVALUABLE RESOURCE

Clean water from the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin supplies our homes, supports our industries, and is central to our sense of pride and place. Incidents like the harmful algal bloom in 2014 that shut down Toledo's drinking water supply for three days remind us that our water supply is fragile and needs protection. Ensuring clean source water, from surface and underground sources to the point it reaches our drinking water infrastructure, requires strategic thinking and innovative investment across the eight states and two provinces. Nutrient runoff, spills of polluting materials, and emerging contaminants are just a few off the threats that require public and private organizations from across the basin to work together to assure a safe and sustainable water supply.

TRACKING PROGRESS WITH BLUE ACCOUNTING

Blue Accounting's Source Water Initiative brings together federal, state, provincial, local, nonprofit and private-sector water professionals to promote shared, region-wide goals for protecting sources of drinking water and track progress against agreed-upon metrics. The team has set five shared goals that involve:

- Minimizing nutrient impacts
- Instituting effective source water protection plans
- Preventing and responding to spills
- Monitoring and addressing emerging contaminants
- Building binational consistency

Curated data and information displayed on Blue Accounting's website (www.blueaccounting.org) will give leaders and managers a big picture view on progress toward these goals. Progress and innovation will be illustrated through partnerships with "showcase communities" throughout the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence

River basin. Over time, we seek to cover the entirety of the Great Lakes basin and Canadian freshwater extent of the St. Lawrence River basin, filling in the puzzle of who is doing what to achieve our shared goals. By sharing strategies and results from diverse investments in source water protection, Blue Accounting's Source Water Initiative will help leaders set priorities and allocate resources for more effective, efficient management of our shared source water resources.



LEARN MORE

For more information on Blue Accounting's Source Water Initiative, contact Nicole Zacharda, Program Manager at the Great Lakes Commission, at nzacharda@glc.org.

If you are interested in learning more about Blue Accounting projects, would like to provide feedback, or want to explore using Blue Accounting for a new issue facing the Great Lakes, please contact Tawny Mata, Blue Accounting Director of Strategic Engagement, at tawny.mata@tnc.org.

WHO'S INVOLVED

Federal US Geological Survey • US Environmental Protection Agency | **State/Provincial** Illinois

Environmental Protection Agency • Indiana Department of Environmental Management • Michigan

Department of Environmental Quality • Minnesota Department of Environmental Health • Ohio Environmental Protection Agency • Ontario Ministry of Environment and Climate Change • Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection • Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources |

Municipal/Regional American Water Works Association • Avon Lake Regional Water • Cleveland Water • Conservation Ontario • City of Toledo •

International Joint Commission • Milwaukee Water Works • Ottawa County Road Commission • Region of Peel, Ontario • Toledo-Lucas County Sustainability Commission | **Environmental Organizations** Alliance for the Great Lakes • Michigan Rural Water Association •

The Nature Conservancy • American Rivers | **Research Institutions** Michigan State University • Wayne State University • University of Wisconsin |

Industry Indiana American Water • Michigan Farm Bureau • Council of Great Lakes Industries • The Dow Chemical Company