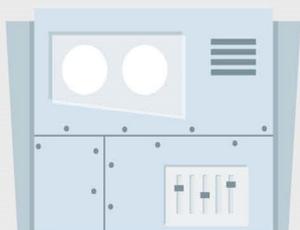




How the Erie P Market Works

FOR STEWARDSHIP



Permitted facility, conservation organization, local business, or other **entity with an interest in clean water (buyer)** decides to take action to improve local water quality and soil health



Buyer decides that **purchasing credits is a pragmatic and effective way to improve watershed and soil health**



Buyer contacts the Great Lakes Commission to **inquire about credit purchasing opportunities**



Buyer and seller work with GLC to **negotiate a trading contract**



Seller works with local conservation partners to **calculate total phosphorus load reduction and credit generation**



A farmer (seller) seeks funding for conservation practices



Seller installs new conservation practices; total phosphorus entering the watershed is reduced

Buyer uses the generated credits to **advance conservation or organizational sustainability goals**

Watersheds are cleaner and permittees enjoy lower compliance costs

What is the Erie P Market?

In January 2016, the Great Lakes Commission launched the Erie P Market to test water quality trading as a nutrient reduction tool in the Western Lake Erie Basin. While water quality “trading” has traditionally been geared toward industrial and municipal wastewater permit compliance, the process of paying for conservation based on the implementation of nutrient-reducing conservation practices also presents an opportunity for any organization interested in clean water to enter the Erie P Market through stewardship crediting. Water quality trading is an excellent outreach tool for business to engage with their customers and surrounding communities.

How Does Stewardship Crediting Work?

Many organizations and individuals are concerned about the health of Lake Erie. Harmful algal blooms have, in recent years, impacted local water supplies and upset the significant tourism economy. **Stewardship credits** are generated by agricultural producers who implement conservation practices to reduce the amount of nutrients (including phosphorus) leaving their fields and entering nearby waterways. The amount of nutrients reduced is translated into “credits” that can be purchased by “stewards.” Dollars invested in the purchase of stewardship credits pays for farmers’ efforts to reduce phosphorus contributions to waterways that flow into the Western Lake Erie Basin. Revenue from the sale of stewardship credits allows farmers to continue or increase those conservation efforts in the face of decreasing farm revenues. Stewards that buy credits can feel good knowing they are helping to improve water quality in Lake Erie. Credits may be available for purchase early in 2018.

The Multiple benefits of Stewardship Crediting

While credits are based on the calculated reductions in phosphorus going into waterways, there are many additional benefits arising from stewardship crediting, such as:

- Reductions in sediment and nitrogen losses
- Improved habitat for wildlife and pollinators
- Improved soil health for a more sustainable (and economical) farming future
- Improved carbon sequestration to mitigate the effects of a changing climate
- Improved local water quality benefits the surrounding community and everyone that enjoys Lake Erie

The Erie P Market Sounds Great, How Do I Learn More?

Additional materials are available at <http://www.glc.org/work/eriepmarket>, or contact Great Lakes Commission Program Manager Nicole Zacharda at nzacharda@glc.org or 734-396-6084.