

## 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 market-based nutrient reduction tool in the Western Lake Erie Basin. Water quality trading is the process of paying for conservation based on the implementation of nutrient-reducing conservation practices. By participating in the Erie P Market as credit sellers, **producers receive funding for the implementation of nutrient management plans and other qualifying conservation practices.**

## How Does It Work?

Credits are generated by producers who implement conservation practices to reduce the amount of nutrients (including phosphorus) leaving their fields and entering nearby waterways. Producers work with their preferred local conservation partner to design and implement a conservation plan that works for them, and adheres to the requirements of the Erie P Market. The amount of nutrients reduced is translated into credits that can then be sold. Any organization or individual concerned about regional soil health or the water quality of Lake Erie can choose to purchase credits. In addition, NPDES permittees with phosphorus limits in some states may purchase credits toward regulatory compliance.

While the financial incentives are competitive with other programs that seek to provide similar opportunities for producers, **the Erie P Market has several advantages.** A flexible market framework allows producers to choose the local conservation partner or other qualified entity that they want to work with to design their conservation plan. In addition, a simple and transparent process minimizes paperwork and administrative red tape.

## Producers in the Erie P Market Reap Multiple Benefits

While credits are based on the calculated reductions in phosphorus going into waterways, there are many additional benefits from choosing to generate and sell credits on the Erie P Market.

- Improved soil health for a more sustainable (and economical) farming future
- Reductions in phosphorus, nitrogen, and soil losses
- Improved local water quality benefiting the surrounding community and all who enjoy Lake Erie
- Improved habitat for pollinators

## 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](mailto:nzacharda@glc.org) or 734-396-6084.