

Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database: Providing Information on Withdrawals, Diversions, and Consumptive Use

The Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database was created over 20 years ago to provide a uniform, consistent base of data of Great Lakes water usage.

Annual water use reporting by the Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River states and provinces began as a result of the Great Lakes Charter of 1985. The states and provinces have committed to provide consistent information on water use to improve decision-making and support water management, conservation and efficiency programs. They report annual water use information to a regional database, which is maintained by the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) in its role of managing and delivering regional information to support the conservation and balanced use of the Great Lakes.

The GLC manages the database and produces an annual report on the usage of Great Lakes waters. Additionally, the GLC works in partnership with water use managers from the states and provinces to assess ways to improve data quality and the collective understanding of water uses in the region.

The 2015 report, along with past years' reports, are available at www.glc.org/waterusedata.