



Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy

- The Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy (GLRC Strategy) is a \$26 billion federal-state plan for cleaning and preserving the Great Lakes that will produce economic benefits well in excess of its costs.
- The GLRC Strategy estimates the present-value economic benefits from implementing the Strategy recommendations at more than \$50 billion in long-term benefits; and between \$30 to \$50 billion in short term multiplier benefits. (The total of these two benefits equals approximately \$80 - \$100 billion that would have a direct impact on the overall economy in the Great Lakes region.)
- The GLRC Strategy was called for by an Executive Order from President Bush, and involved more than 1,500 individuals, eight strategy teams, federal agencies, state, local and tribal government officials and private sector stakeholders.
- The GLRC Strategy's eight teams focused on particular subject areas including: enhancing coastal health; treating areas of concern; reducing non-point contamination sources; dealing with toxic pollutants; preserving habitats and enhancing conservation; addressing aquatic invasive species; developing a system of indicators and information; and assuring sustainable development.
- The GLRC Strategy aims to protect and restore existing wetlands in both urban and rural areas so that all water bodies across the Great Lakes region function as healthy ecosystems. Achieving these objectives will involve: restoring wetlands, creating buffer areas in urban and suburban areas; supporting the development and implementation of comprehensive nutrient and manure management on livestock farms; and achieving hydrological improvements in urban watersheds.
- The Great Lakes and its waterways offer tremendous opportunity for reinvigorating the economy of the region and boosting the competitiveness of the nation as a whole. Federal policy makers should be urged to fully fund implementation of the GLRC Strategy now, before the price tag for this effort grows even more.
- Federal policy makers need to understand the economic significance of Great Lakes restoration and that by enacting legislation they can deliver important economic benefits to both the regional and national economies
- Federal, state, local and tribal policy makers need to work together to support the lakes potential as a major resource in development of freshwater protection, treatment and energy conservation technologies into the 21st century and beyond.

(Information included in this FACT sheet is from the report, "Healthy Waters, Strong Economy: The Benefits of Restoring the Great Lakes Ecosystem," by J.C. Austin, S. Anderson, P.N. Courant, R.E. Litan, Sept. 2007, The Brookings Institution – Great Lakes Economic Initiative.)