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From: [Great Lakes SWR Agreement \(MNR\)](#)

Sent: Thursday, November 08, 2012 3:19 PM

Subject: Ontario is adopting Great Lakes Basin-wide water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives

Good Afternoon

The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement (Agreement) was created to protect and conserve the shared waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River Basin. The governments of Ontario, Quebec, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania and Indiana are parties to the Agreement. Under the Agreement, each jurisdiction committed to developing water conservation goals and objectives consistent with the Great Lakes Basin-wide goals and objectives. Water conservation goals are outlined in the Agreement. Great Lakes Basin-wide water conservation objectives were adopted in 2007 by the [Regional Body](#) that is responsible for the Agreement implementation. The Regional Body includes representatives from each provincial and state jurisdiction. Eight of the ten jurisdictions have also adopted goals and objectives within their jurisdiction.

On August 5, 2009, the ministries of the Environment and Natural Resources posted a Proposal Notice on the Environmental Registry to seek public input on proposals for implementing key Ontario commitments under the Agreement. Among the proposals consulted on was the development of Ontario water conservation and efficiency goals and objectives, as committed to under the Agreement.

Based on consultation and comments received, Ontario is adopting the Great Lakes Basin-wide water conservation goals and objectives. Ontario's goals are identical to the goals in the Agreement. Ontario's objectives are consistent with the regional objectives adopted for the Great Lakes Basin. They have been tailored for Ontario to reflect the direction of the Water Opportunities and Water Conservation Act, 2010, and to address stakeholder comments. A decision notice will be posted to the Environmental Registry at <http://www.ebr.gov.on.ca> (EBR Registry Number 010-6350).

A list of the province's existing water management and conservation statutes, programs and policies that support these goals and objectives will be available as a web-link to the decision notice. The full description of the programs will be shared with the Regional Body in December 2012.

If you have comments or questions related to the water conservation and efficiency goals, objectives and programs, please contact Kelly Brown, Manager of the Water Policy Section at the Ministry of the Environment's Land and Water Policy Branch at kelly.brown@ontario.ca or 416-212-4703.

If you have comments or questions related to the Great Lakes – St. Lawrence River Basin Sustainable Water Resources Agreement and its implementation, please contact Jennifer Keyes, Manager of the Great Lakes and Water Policy Section at the Ministry of Natural Resources' Biodiversity Branch at jennifer.keyes@ontario.ca or 705-755-5244.

Thank you,

Sharon Bailey, Director
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