

Keeping It
On the Land

Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control



Great Lakes
Commission
des Grands Lacs

About Us

The Great Lakes Basin Program for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control is all about making a difference – in water quality, land use, and agricultural productivity. Initiated in 1991 and authorized in the 2002 Farm Bill, this federal/state partnership has supported well over 200 demonstration and technical assistance projects throughout the Great Lakes region. The Basin Program is coordinated by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (Natural Resources Conservation Service), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Great Lakes states.

The Great Lakes Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Task Force oversees the program and ensures that goals and objectives are met. Task force members include representatives from the eight Great Lakes

states, the federal partner agencies, the International Joint Commission and the National Association of Conservation Districts.

By providing resources that allow managers to take action to prevent soil erosion and sedimentation, the Great Lakes Basin Program protects the water quality of the Great Lakes basin!

How to apply for grants

The Great Lakes Basin Program sponsors an annual erosion and sediment control grants program. The RFP is announced in November and is posted on the Basin Program's web page, www.glc.org/basin. Nonfederal agencies, academia, and nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply for grants for demonstration, information and education projects taking place within the Great Lakes basin.

What's the Problem?

- Soil erosion and sedimentation are significant contributors to Great Lakes nonpoint source pollution
- Erosion compromises agricultural and forestry production through the loss of valuable soil
- Sedimentation interferes with navigation, water-based recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and the efficiency of water treatment facilities

Resource managers have long understood the importance of controlling erosion from the standpoint of on-site soil savings. Recently, water quality managers have begun to address the off-site impacts that sedimentation has on the environment and public infrastructure.



The Great Lakes Basin Program improves water quality by supporting soil erosion and sedimentation control demonstration projects, technical assistance, and education programs.

Learn more about applying for a soil erosion and sediment control grant by visiting the Great Lakes Basin Program web site at: www.glc.org/basin

Our Mission: Keeping It On the Land

Our goal is to protect and improve water quality in the Great Lakes basin by reducing soil erosion and controlling sedimentation through financial incentives, the application of innovative technologies, information and education, and professional assistance. In other words: "Keeping It On the Land."

Key objectives

1. Minimize off-site damage to harbors, streams, fish and wildlife habitat, recreational facilities, and the basin's public works systems caused by sediment.
2. Reduce the on-site damages caused by soil

loss from farms, developments, streambanks and shorelines.

Methods used to achieve our goals

- Recognizing sediment as an important pollutant
- Maintaining legislative recognition
- Providing dedicated and reliable funding
- Coordinating state, local and regional efforts, roles and initiatives
- Building coalitions and networks
- Obtaining and sharing information

Achievements

On average, for every \$1,000 spent on demonstration grants through the Great Lakes Basin Program, 132 tons of soil were saved, and 297 pounds of phosphorus and 190 pounds of nitrogen were kept out of the water. In addition, hundreds of citizens were educated on erosion and sediment control techniques.*

Since its inception in 1991, the Great Lakes Basin Program has:

- Funded hundreds of demonstration, technical assistance, and information/education projects to assist agencies and organizations in reducing soil erosion and controlling sediment

- Kept hundreds of thousands of tons of topsoil "on the land" in the Great Lakes basin
- Reduced excess phosphorus amounts entering the Great Lakes system by more than one million pounds
- Stopped just under one million pounds of excess nitrogen from entering the lakes and other water bodies

For current statistics, please visit our web site at www.glc.org/basin.

* Soil saved, as well as nitrogen and phosphorous reduction figures, are calculated based on the life of funded projects between 1991 - 2001.

Please visit our web site for more information:

www.glc.org/basin



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