



GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND

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Earth Day - April 22, 1994

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**GREAT LAKES ECOSYSTEM HEALTH IMPROVING: REPORT DETAILS
"STEPS TOWARD STEWARDSHIP" BEING TAKEN BY INDUSTRY,
COMMUNITIES**

In a report titled "Steps Toward Stewardship" the Great Lakes Protection Fund announced today the findings and results of the first group of completed projects investigating ways to reduce pollution and improve the health of the Great Lakes basin ecosystem. Since its inception in 1989 the Fund has awarded \$8.9 million to support 71 projects that further the Fund's mission, which is to identify, demonstrate and promote regional action to enhance the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

Preliminary work conducted by the Fund through its grantees has revealed that the Great Lakes community is beginning to institute changes that will have a profound impact in the short and long term on the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem. Twenty completed projects and a series of roundtable meetings with environmental and business leaders have shown that innovative and potentially far-reaching efforts are already underway.

Although the once-unchecked pollution of the Great Lakes has been reduced dramatically, the work of the Fund's grantees shows that future success will depend on a reorientation of everyday behavior away from pollution management toward pollution prevention. "Steps Toward Stewardship" describes the Fund supported projects which document how new ways of working together on environmental problems have incorporated regional collaboration, negotiation among multiple parties and new ways of thinking to achieve results.

Many of the projects undertaken by the Fund's grantees bring together people who have rarely worked with each other before, or identify the appropriate actors for future work.

For example, in one project, the Environmental Working Group documented that while reducing farm runoff will always mean working with farmers, real success in resolving this significant agricultural pollution problem will require the involvement of agricultural corporations, the participation of university experts, the restructuring of retail farm-support businesses, the creation of government incentives and regulations, and ultimately, the support of the public for such changes.

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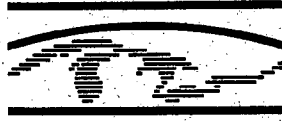
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Pollution prevention for non-farm businesses will require similar teamwork, as demonstrated by the Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program in a project that created a satellite video-teleconference for small businesses interested in water-based cleaning systems. To get started, the conference planners assembled advisory committees to harness the expertise of corporate manufacturers, government agencies, small-business assistance organizations, and a video production center. Planning sessions were held in Cleveland, Nashville and Chicago, leading to significant changes in the original plan. Finally, a successful teleconference was held with the participation of over 2200 individuals at 126 sites throughout the United States.

The work documented in "Steps Toward Stewardship" can help point the way toward the next stage of progress on Great Lakes health and the Fund believes that this next stage is within reach. But it will not be realized using old approaches or go-it-alone projects. Teamwork, communication, new ways of thinking and an unwavering focus on ecosystem health must be nurtured. Only then will the Great Lakes be capable of meeting the demands we ask of them: to sustain their historic base of life and the nearly 40 million human residents who now live and work on their shores.

Copies of the report "Steps Toward Stewardship" can be obtained by calling the Great Lakes Protection Fund at 312-201-0660.

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STEPS TOWARD STEWARDSHIP

**Collaboration and Ecosystem Health
in the Great Lakes Basin**

**A Report on
Principal Findings
Completed Projects
and Current Projects
January 1994**

**Great Lakes Protection Fund
35 E. Wacker Dr., Suite 1880
Chicago, IL 60601
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I. Steps Toward Stewardship

Bringing the Great Lakes ecosystem back to health will be a lengthy process demanding new levels of collaboration across disciplines and geographic boundaries.

II. Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention in Manufacturing
Pollution Prevention Teleconferences
Collaboration on Oil Spill Protection
Promoting Zero Discharge
Inventory of Toxic Air Emissions
Environmental Reporting Workshop
Citizen Workshops on Clean Air Act
Great Lakes Television Consortium

Lake Michigan Federation
Cleveland Advanced Manufacturing Program
Council of Great Lakes Governors
Great Lakes United
Great Lakes Commission
Scientists' Institute for Public Information
Sierra Club Midwest
WTTW/Channel 11

III. Effective Cleanup Approaches

Life in Contaminated Sediment

Brock University and
State University of New York - Buffalo

IV. Human and Wildlife Health

Regional Knowledge of Health Effects

Envirovet

Great Lakes Regional Specimen Bank
Reproductive Dysfunction in Salmon
Health Risks of Fish Consumption
Effectiveness of Fish Advisories
Fish Consumption and Thyroid Disease
Nesting Success of Bald Eagles
Human Reproduction in the Basin

Institute for Environmental Studies
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Department of Veterinary Biosciences
University of Illinois
Michigan Audubon Society
University of Guelph
State University of New York - Buffalo
Cornell University
State University of New York - Buffalo
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
New York State Department of Health

V. Natural Resource Stewardship

Lake Superior Biodiversity Project
Great Legacy Natural Heritage Areas

National Wildlife Federation
Center for the Great Lakes

VI. Projects Underway

Work now being conducted with Fund support will help identify, demonstrate or promote regional actions to enhance Great Lakes ecosystem health.