



PROTECTING WATER, SUSTAINING LIFE

The Alliance for the Great Lakes is a nonpartisan nonprofit organization working across the region to protect our most precious resource: the fresh, clean, and natural waters of the Great Lakes.

VISION

A thriving Great Lakes and healthy water that all life can rely on, today and far into the future. We aspire to be a voice for the lakes and to support the voices of the communities that depend on the lakes and their waters.

MISSION

To protect, conserve, and restore the Great Lakes, ensuring healthy water in the lakes and in our communities for all generations of people and wildlife. We advance our mission as advocates for policies that support the lakes and communities, by building the research, analysis, and partnerships that motivate action, and by educating and uniting people as a voice for the Great Lakes.

VALUES

We value community, relationships, courage, integrity, optimism, and the principles of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in all our work.

Holding almost 20% of the world's surface freshwater, the Great Lakes provide drinking water to nearly 40 million people and power the region's economy. But the lakes and the communities that rely on them face serious threats from pollution, invasive species, failing water infrastructure, and climate change.

Clean water is an essential resource and a right for people and wildlife. Yet too many people who live in Great Lakes communities lack access to safe, affordable water and cannot safely take advantage of recreation opportunities.

Our Strategy

We envision three broad positive outcomes for people and the lakes:

- Safer, cleaner, more accessible water for all
- People and communities can safely enjoy and rely on all the lakes have to offer, from drinking water to swimming, boating, and fishing
- Communities that depend on the lakes are heard and included in the decisions that affect them

Our approach includes:

- Protecting safe, clean, and affordable water
- Reducing agricultural pollution
- Stopping invasive species
- Restoring the health and resilience of the lakes
- Safeguarding hard-fought Great Lakes protections
- Building leadership for clean water protection in communities, using our skills, resources, and expertise in support of local leaders and networks
- Growing a credible and lasting voice for the Great Lakes by motivating tens of thousands of people each year to take action
- Supporting a strong staff and board of directors, and ensuring the fiscal health that enables the Alliance to advance our mission and vision

Throughout all work, we aspire to address climate change and environmental injustices.



How We Work

ADVOCACY & LEADERSHIP

We develop actionable solutions that protect the lakes and the communities that depend on them.

- Build bipartisan support to address drinking water, stormwater and wastewater policy problems, funding gaps, and inequities
- Advocate for funding and policies that stop harmful invasive species like invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes
- Drive toward clean water targets for Green Bay and Lake Erie by reducing agricultural pollution, stopping harmful algal blooms, and engaging the hardest-hit communities
- Ensure the federal Great Lakes restoration strategy is fully funded, helps heal environmental injustices, and reflects current and future needs in the face of climate change

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

Our research and analysis inform community leaders and guides policy to protect the Great Lakes.

- Support Chicago's Calumet Connect Partnership to bring qualitative and quantitative data analysis to communities and advance policy changes that protect them from industrial pollution
- Convene a regional network of traditional and community-based leaders to develop shared federal and state drinking water advocacy strategy, and support the network with our research and expertise

EDUCATION & ACTION

We support people and communities in protecting the lakes by providing action-oriented information and programs.

- Involve at least 15,000 volunteers at beach cleanups on all 5 lakes and in all 8 Great Lakes states through our Adopt-a-Beach program
- Grow Alliance Ambassadors into a regional volunteer program, with volunteers in all 8 Great Lakes states trained to learn and share Alliance and Great Lakes news and information in their communities

Learn More

For more information, please contact Mary Barton, Vice President of Development, at mbarton@greatlakes.org or (312) 445-9737.

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