

Citizens Campaign for the Environment (CCE)

Established in 1985, CCE is an 80,000 member, non-profit, non-partisan advocacy organization working to protect public health and the natural environment in New York State and Connecticut. Our work is based on a philosophy of pollution prevention, conservation, and environmental sustainability.

CCE is a member of the Healing Our WatersSM Great Lakes Coalition. Established in 2005, the coalition's goal is to restore and protect the Great Lakes. Led by the National Wildlife Federation and the National Parks Conservation Association, the coalition represents millions of residents in the Great Lakes region.

Through the St. Lawrence River, New York is the gateway to the Great Lakes. Its watershed quenches the thirst for millions of New Yorkers, provides habitat for wildlife, generates emission free hydropower and supports billion dollar industries including tourism and fishing.

CCE educates the public on Great Lakes policy solutions and works to advance protections with local, state, and federal officials.



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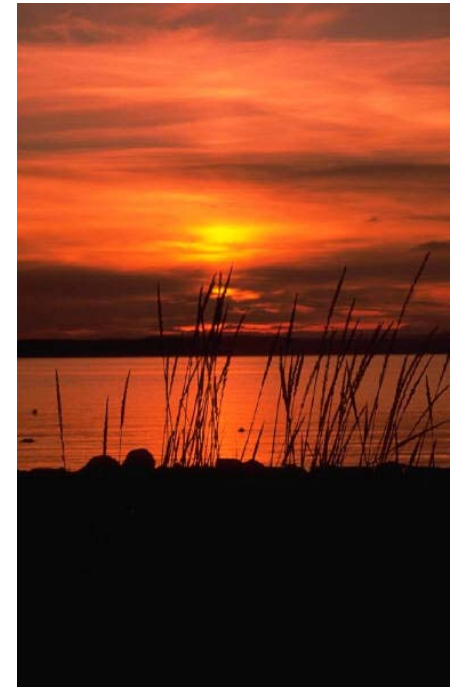
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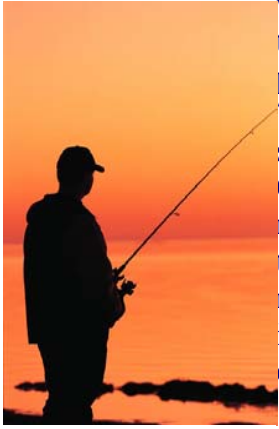


The Great Lakes: The Future is in Our Hands



CCE Great Lakes Campaign

The Great Lakes are a natural wonder of the world that hold one-fifth of the world's fresh water supply. Comprising more than 700 miles of New York's shoreline, Lake Erie, Lake Ontario, and the St. Lawrence Seaway hold the key to our economic health, recreational opportunities, and irreplaceable family experiences. The Great Lakes supply millions of New Yorkers with their drinking water, provide habitat for wildlife, and support billion dollar industries such as



Great Lakes fishing and tourism generate billions of dollars to our economy annually.

tourism and fishing.

With miles of spectacular beaches, wildlife-rich wetlands, amazing fishing opportunities, expansive forests, and clean drinking water, the Great Lakes ecosystem is undoubtedly one of the most magnificent treasure troves of natural resources on Earth.

Great Lakes Under Threat

While the Great Lakes are truly great, they are also quite fragile, and signs of decline are apparent. Eighty-four percent of New York State's (NYS) Great Lakes waters do not support designated uses, such as fishing and swimming. Raw sewage waste contaminating beaches, invasive species threatening food webs, unsustainable development destroying habitat, and toxic

mercury making fish unsafe to eat have reached the point that the Lakes need us to defend them - to keep them healthy. We must take action now, before these problems get worse and the solutions become more expensive.

CCE works at the local, state, and federal level to protect Great Lakes water quality and quantity.

Protecting and Restoring Water Quality

Great Lakes Regional Collaboration (GLRC): Comprised of an unprecedented team of 1,500 citizens, industry leaders, federal agency officials, Great Lakes governors and mayors, Native American Tribes, and environmental groups such as CCE, the GLRC has developed a comprehensive action plan to protect and restore the Great Lakes.

The plan has been codified in to federal legislation, known as the Great Lakes Collaboration Implementation Act (GLCIA). CCE has garnered strong Congressional support for GLCIA in New York and Connecticut, and will continue to work aggressively to ensure passage of this important legislation.

Great Lakes Restoration in NYS: The success of the GLRC action plan is not solely dependent upon federal support; states must also provide critical financial and legislative support for Great Lakes restoration efforts. CCE has worked successfully to increase funding for Great Lakes restoration in NYS, and will continue to work to further increase funding from NYS.

Protecting Water Quantity

Predicted to be more valuable than oil, our seemingly limitless fresh water resources are the envy of many who suffer from polluted or disappearing water resources. There has been increased interest in shipping, piping, and diverting Great Lakes water. With only 1% of Great Lakes water replenished naturally by rain and snowmelt annually, large withdrawals represent a clear threat to the health of the Great Lakes.

In response to the emerging threat to Great Lakes water quantity, the Council of Great Lakes Governors, composed of the eight Great Lakes Governors and the two Great Lakes Canadian Premiers, developed strong uniform standards to scrutinize all large water withdrawals.

The plan, known as the *Great Lakes St Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact*, must now be ratified by all Great Lakes State Legislatures and the US Congress. In New York, CCE is working to pass the Compact and to build support for ratification by Congress.



While seemingly inexhaustible, Great Lakes water only replenishes one percent annually.