



Template Resolution for City Council Consideration:

Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes, including Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario, the St. Lawrence River, and the connecting channels form the largest surface fresh water system on earth;

WHEREAS, the waters of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basin are a shared public treasure;

WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence basin includes significant portions of eight states, including Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin and two Canadian provinces, Ontario and Quebec;

WHEREAS, over 40 million people inhabit the Basin, representing one-tenth of the US population and one-quarter of the Canadian population;

WHEREAS, only one percent of the water in the Great Lakes is renewed each year;

WHEREAS, the health and well-being of the region, its people, and future generations depend heavily on the integrity of the resource;

WHEREAS, it is understood that sustaining accessible and adequate water supplies are essential to the people and economies of the cities within the Basin;

WHEREAS, cities must act to ensure the protection and conservation of the waters and water dependent natural resources of the Basin for future generations;

WHEREAS, effective water conservation and water stewardship involve a municipal commitment to best management practices and effective public outreach tools;

WHEREAS, a conservation strategy outlining what constitutes responsible water planning, use and management would reinforce the municipal commitment to conservation;

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Gary Becker, Mayor of Racine, Chair

Richard M. Daley, Mayor of Chicago, Founding United States Chair

David Miller, Mayor of Toronto, Founding Canadian Chair



WHEREAS, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative has developed a Water Conservation Framework for municipal water conservation and stewardship that embodies this strategy, will help the dissemination of best management practices and tools and allows signers the flexibility necessary to meet commitments in a way that reflects their community needs and circumstances and addresses differences in water sources, quality, quantity and usage;

WHEREAS, by voluntarily signing on to the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework, municipalities indicate their intent to enhance the stewardship of the water resource within their jurisdictions;

WHEREAS, the City of _____ has committed to participating in the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Cities Initiative Water Conservation Framework;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the City of _____ will work towards achieving a ____ percent reduction in total water usage below year 2000 water consumption levels by the year 2015;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of _____ will pass ordinances and resolutions, if necessary, to help implement the city's plan to achieve the target reduction.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2007