

# Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program

## State Roles

### State support for the Balanced Growth planning process

- The Lake Erie Commission should provide information on the restoration goals for the Lake Erie basin, the objectives of the Balanced Growth program and guidance for creating Watershed Planning Partnerships (WPPs).
- The Commission should also provide technical assistance and facilitation to assist local governments in the formation of the partnerships.
- The state should directly provide financial support for watershed planning through the *Lake Erie Protection Fund* and other state programs.
- The state should assist WPPs in obtaining grants from outside sources.
- The Lake Erie Commission should develop a Balanced Growth planning toolkit to assist local Watershed Planning Partnerships. This toolkit should include methodologies for designating PCAs and PDAs, assistance on watershed planning, and a GIS-based decision support system.
- The Commission should also develop a technical support network to assist Watershed Planning Partnerships in creating their Watershed Balanced Growth Plans.

### Public Education

- The Lake Erie Commission should coordinate existing watershed education programs and develop new educational resources to educate and involve citizens and public officials in the Balanced Growth program.
- These educational efforts should include an orientation program for Watershed Planning Partnerships, an information package communicating the benefits of the Balanced Growth program, and a special outreach to organizations of local government officials, planning, design, and development professionals to expand awareness of Balanced Growth principles.

### Plan Endorsement

The Lake Erie Commission should review and endorse completed Watershed Balanced Growth Plans according to their agreement with existing state strategies, whether the plan identifies PCAs and PDAs, whether the planning process was open and inclusive, and whether the plan achieved local consensus.

### Pilot Projects

The Lake Erie Commission should begin implementation of the Balanced Growth program by supporting pilot planning projects in three Lake Erie watersheds.

### State Incentives

The Lake Erie Commission should prepare a State Balanced Growth Strategy that identifies state programs and incentives that can be aligned with locally determined Balanced Growth strategies that promote the protection and restoration of Lake Erie.

