

# The Lake Erie Protection Fund and the Lake Erie Protection and Restoration Plan 2008

On the application form for the LEPF Small Grants program, applicants are asked to outline which specific Strategic Objectives from the LEPR 2008 their proposed project will address.

The table below summarizes the organization of the LEPR 2008.

**Organization of the LEPR 2008**

*Priority – based on the GLRC priority areas, these broad topics help provide an organizational structure for the LEPR 2008.*

*Goal – a goal for progress within Ohio has been established for each priority. These goals may not be reached by 2014, but provide a strategic long term focus for state activities.*

*Great Lakes Perspective – a summary of each priority at the Great Lakes scale is provided for background.*

*Ohio’s Lake Erie Watershed – a summary of each priority within Ohio’s Lake Erie Watershed is provided for background.*

**Strategic Objective – provides for a clear goal for action by 2014 (unless otherwise noted). Not all of these goals will be met, but significant progress towards each is expected. Strategic Objectives are blue when the text is printed in color.**

*Actions – outline specific activities planned by the OLEC agencies over the next three fiscal years. Implementation of these activities is dependent upon funding through the state budget process for FY 2010-2011. A separate set of actions for 2012-2013 will further progress towards the Strategic Objectives.*

Applicants should identify which specific Strategic Objective(s) their projects will address.

In the example provided below, the **highlighted text** is a Strategic Objective:

<p style="font-size: small;">Lake Erie Protection &amp; Restoration Plan – 2008 <span style="float: right;">1</span></p> <p><b>Priority: Nonpoint Source Pollution</b></p> <p><i>Goal: Reduce nonpoint source loadings to Lake Erie tributaries.</i></p> <p><u>Great Lakes Perspective:</u>  <small>*Water pollution from nonpoint sources is a substantial contributor to the impairment of waters across the Great Lakes basin. Nonpoint source pollution is present throughout the basin, in many forms and with many interactions. The complexity of the pollutants and their presence in soil, water, and air make pollution abatement for nonpoint sources particularly difficult to address.<sup>1</sup> Coastal Ohio, especially western Lake Erie has been identified as an area of severe impact from nonpoint source pollution within the Great Lakes basin.</small></p> <p><small>Nonpoint source pollution can be divided into five stressors: nutrients, contaminants, pathogens, sedimentation, and altered flow regimes. These stressors enter the ecosystem through three primary pathways: surface runoff, groundwater infiltration, and atmospheric deposition.<sup>4</sup></small></p> <p><u>Ohio’s Lake Erie Watershed:</u>  <small>Within Ohio, sediment continues to reign as the primary nonpoint pollutant of concern, followed closely by impairment from nutrients and habitat modification. A goal reduction of 33% from the 2007 baseline sediment loads has been set as a part of this Plan. As well, nutrient loading to Lake Erie, particularly dissolved reactive phosphorus (DRP), has emerged as another primary issue of concern. Ohio EPA organized a Phosphorus Task Force in 2007 to address DRP levels, making the completion of this group’s work and the implementation of their recommendations a primary strategy for reversing current trends. A suite of practices focused on the riparian corridor and upland areas targeting agricultural, rural residential, urban, coastal, and forest land use have been proposed or are currently being implemented in an effort to combat nonpoint source pollution in its many forms.</small></p> <p><u>2014 Strategic Objectives:</u>  <small>The following Strategic Objectives have been identified to help move Ohio closer to addressing its goal for nonpoint source pollution reductions. These objectives are meant to provide an ambitious target that will be evaluated as a part of the 2014 Lake Erie Quality Index (LEQI).</small></p> <p><small><sup>1</sup> Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, p. 41  <sup>4</sup> Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Strategy, p. 41</small></p>	<p style="font-size: small;">Lake Erie Protection &amp; Restoration Plan – 2008 <span style="float: right;">2</span></p> <p><small>Each Strategic Objective is followed by one or more actions to be taken in State Fiscal Years 2009-2011.</small></p> <p><small>Reverse increasing nutrient loading to Lake Erie, especially Dissolved Reactive Phosphorus:  Recent reviews of phosphorus loading to Lake Erie from Ohio tributaries have shown that trends in dissolved reactive phosphorus loading differ greatly from trends in particulate phosphorus loading. Nonpoint phosphorus control programs focused on reducing particulate phosphorus loading through erosion control measures and use of buffer strips to trap sediments. The tributary loading data illustrate the success of these programs in reducing particulate phosphorus. The reviews show that dissolved reactive phosphorus loading decreased even more rapidly than particulate phosphorus up through the mid-1980s. Since that time, however, dissolved reactive phosphorus loading has increased dramatically to the point where it now is approaching the same loads as in the late 1970s and early 1980s. Algal trends in Lake Erie appear to match the trends in dissolved reactive phosphorus loading much more closely than they match the trends in either total phosphorus or particulate phosphorus loading.<sup>3</sup></small></p> <p><u>FY 2009-2011 Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Complete the Phosphorus Task Force recommendations report. – OEPA</li> <li>✓ Implementation of priority Phosphorus Task Force recommendations. – OEPA</li> <li>✓ Adopt new water quality criteria for nutrients in 2009. – OEPA</li> <li>✓ Incorporate an analysis of stream assimilative capacity in small agricultural catchments as part of Ohio EPA’s TMDL protocols. – OEPA</li> </ul> <p><b>Facilitate adoption of model regulations for storm water management and riparian and wetland setbacks by local jurisdictions</b>  <small>The Best Local Land Use Practices recommended by the Ohio Lake Erie Commission contain a wealth of information on how communities can update and adapt their land use and zoning codes to incorporate better storm water management, reduce impacts to waterways and watersheds, enhance the development environment, and provide for a higher quality of life.<sup>5</sup></small></p> <p><u>FY 2009-2011 Actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Support education of communities on model regulations through the Ohio Lake Erie Commission’s Lake Erie Balanced Growth Program. – OLEC, ODNR</li> </ul> <p><small><sup>3</sup> Lake Erie Phosphorus Task Force – Rationale Statement  <a href="http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dw/ato/P/TaskForceRationale/WorkGroupformation.pdf">http://www.epa.state.oh.us/dw/ato/P/TaskForceRationale/WorkGroupformation.pdf</a>  <sup>5</sup> Linking Land Use and Lake Erie – Best Local Land Use Practices – p. 4</small></p>
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