



Transforming Ohio for Growth

Stronger. Together.

PROTECTING OUR LAKE ERIE WATERSHED

Aggressively Tackling Water Quality Issues

Through Ohio's state agencies — and in partnership with the General Assembly, conservation organizations, agricultural organizations, local communities and the federal government — the Kasich Administration is working to improve water quality throughout Ohio. This includes a special focus on Lake Erie and its tributaries by reducing the threat of harmful algal blooms and eliminating the open-lake disposal of dredge material. Ohio has invested more than \$1 billion since July 2011 in the Lake Erie watershed to improve drinking water and wastewater facilities, monitor water quality, plant cover crops, recycle dredge material, install controlled drainage systems on fields and fix faulty septic systems. Ohio has embraced new reforms initially introduced in the budget but passed through Senate Bill 1 to build on this progress with additional regulations to protect its environment.

No Open Lake Disposal of Dredge Materials by 2020: Reducing the sediment dumped in Lake Erie will help reduce chemical and nutrient loading, which likely contributes to harmful algal blooms, and will improve water quality while protecting fish and wildlife habitats. Ohio will require that all dredge material be diverted from open-lake disposal by 2020, unless it's for a beneficial use such as beach nourishment.

No Manure or Fertilizer Application on Frozen/Snow Covered Ground in Western Basin: Ohio will prohibit manure or fertilizer from being applied to frozen, snow-covered or rain soaked ground in the Western Lake Erie Basin unless proper farming practices such as injection, tillage, or cover crops are also used. If needed, medium-sized farms will have one year, and small farms two, to work with the Department of Natural Resources to comply with the new manure regulations. This provision is necessary to reduce the nutrients that cause algal blooms and restore the health of our great lake.

Limiting Phosphorus Discharges: Ohio Environmental Protection Agency is modifying new and existing wastewater discharge permits for major public wastewater treatment plants to expand monitoring and continue to limit phosphorus discharges in state waters.

Additional Requirements for Spreading Manure: The Ohio Department of Agriculture will now require anyone applying livestock manure from a Concentrated Animal Feeding Facility to obtain a Certified Livestock Manager certificate or an agricultural fertilizer applicator certificate. Both certifications help ensure that applicators practice responsible nutrient management principles. This statewide provision will work to further protect our environmental resources while allowing Ohio to continue to grow its vital agricultural industry.

BOTTOM LINE: Gov. John R. Kasich is working to improve water quality throughout Ohio with a special focus on Lake Erie by reducing the threat of harmful algal blooms and eliminating the open-lake disposal of dredge material.

