



JOHN R. KASICH
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

SAFEGUARDING OHIO'S ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Focus on Environmental Quality and Access to Natural Resources Improves the Lives of All Ohioans

Understanding that the quality, well-being and beauty of our natural world are essential to the jobs-friendly business climate we want to maintain and grow, Governor John R. Kasich has championed a number of reforms to protect the environment.

- **Protecting Lake Erie:** Starting with the Kasich Administration's first state budget in 2011, Ohio has invested more than \$3 billion in Lake Erie and its watershed, boosting programs to improve drinking water and wastewater facilities, monitor water quality, plant cover crops, recycle dredge material, install controlled drainage structures on farm fields and fix faulty septic systems. In 2015, Gov. Kasich signed legislation to further improve water quality in and around the lake's western basin by making it illegal to put manure or fertilizer on frozen, snow covered, or rain-soaked ground unless proper farming techniques are used; eliminate disposal of dredge material in the lake by 2020; and modify new and existing wastewater discharge permits for major wastewater plants while expanding monitoring and continuing to limit phosphorus in state waters. Ohio also reached an agreement with the State of Michigan and Province of Ontario, to achieve a 40 percent reduction in the amount of phosphorus entering the lake's western basin by 2025.
- **Ensuring the Safety of Ohioans Living Downstream of Aging Dams:** For too many years, programs to ensure regular safety inspections of dams in Ohio were badly underfunded. Gov. Kasich got to work to address this pressing need by investing a record \$317 million in structural improvements, cutting dam repair and rehabilitation times by a third and helping local officials better identify dam safety concerns. Gov. Kasich was also able to put to bed the state's number one dam safety concern by building a new 4.1-mile dam structure on Buckeye Lake. This achievement overcame nearly a generation of stalemate as state officials and lakeside homeowners argued over plans to replace the increasingly deteriorated dam.
- **Leading the Nation with a Comprehensive Energy Strategy:** Ohio essentially had no energy policy before Gov. Kasich took office. Understanding that energy costs are major factors for every family's budget and the success of every sector of our economy, especially manufacturing and agriculture, Gov. Kasich worked to develop a comprehensive energy policy that supports a diverse mix of reliable, low-cost energy sources that meet Ohio's continuing job-creation needs.
- **Making an Unprecedented Investment in Ohio State Parks:** Ohio made unprecedented investments of \$230 million in improvements for Ohio's state park system, which attracts more than 2.8 million overnight visitors each year and supports Ohio's tourism industry. Among notable achievements during his administration, in August 2018 Gov. Kasich announced the creation of a new state park and wildlife area named in honor of Olympic gold medalist Jesse Owens. Starting with an initial purchase of 13,000 acres over the next three years, this can potentially grow to become one of the largest state parks in Ohio.

- **Improving Water Quality in Ohio:** Under the Kasich Administration, Ohio invested more than \$6 billion to tackle key infrastructure issues in order to improve water quality statewide:
 - Providing New Resources to Local Water Systems: In the Kasich Administration, Ohio provided more than \$522.5 million in grants and loans to public water systems to test water quality, improve their facilities, and reduce the amount of phosphorus entering our lakes and streams.
 - Protecting Ohioans from Lead in Drinking Water: Gov. Kasich initiated new state standards to protect public health – backed by tighter deadlines and administrative fines – to ensure public water systems notify and educate the public of potential lead-content issues in a timelier manner. Additionally, Ohio set aside \$24 million to assist communities to replace lead service lines and help schools identify and replace outdated, lead-based water-service fixtures.
 - Tightening Community Water Testing Requirements: Gov. Kasich worked to strengthen the Ohio EPA director’s authority to set testing requirements for a public system based on the age of its infrastructure and whether the system has an active corrosion control program that reduces lead seeping from old, lead-based lines and fixtures.
 - Requiring Financial Assurance for Privately Owned Water Systems: When the owner of a private water system shows an unwillingness or inability to make repairs to ensure safe drinking water for Ohio citizens, Gov. Kasich strengthened tools to fix the problem, while requiring financial assurance from new or modified private water systems to ensure that needed repairs are made.

- **Creating Shale-Gas Regulations That Are Among the Nation’s Best:** As Ohio continued to benefit from growing shale-gas opportunities, it worked to keep pace with the industry’s continuous innovation by proposing updates that support its continued success and ensure we remain one of the nation’s leaders in protecting public health and safety, as well as the environment. Ohio EPA created a general air quality permit for oil and natural gas compressor stations, which is a more effective means to track and regulate air emissions and is more efficient to process.
 - Setting New Chemical Disclosure Regulations: New rules require sharing of chemical information and providing pre-drilling water samples to ensure that water resources are properly protected.
 - Increased State Funding to Plug Orphan Wells: The Kasich Administration invested near \$15 million for plugging 200 orphan wells to address legacy abandoned wells in the state.
 - Developing Emergency Response Training for Oilfield Incidents: A new one-call notification system and specialized training was launched to expedite emergency response when minutes matter most.

- **Protecting Ohio’s Environment:** Ohio’s environmental initiatives are a common-sense approach to provide balance between streamlining burdensome rules while still addressing environmental issues on emerging issues to protect Ohio’s environment. Improvements to the permitting process will help companies achieve and maintain compliance, and create new jobs and economic growth opportunities for Ohioans.
 - Ensuring Responsible Disposal of Construction and Demolition Debris: Ohio established much-needed regulatory oversight of construction and demolition debris processing facilities to ensure that potential pollutants are properly managed and disposed of in an environmentally responsible manner.
 - Strengthening the State’s Ability to Clean up Abandoned Landfills: The Kasich Administration championed new laws to strengthen the Ohio EPA’s ability to inspect, evaluate and clean up abandoned landfills.
- **Developing Common-Sense Permitting:** The Ohio EPA created innovative, common-sense permitting solutions that streamline the process while protecting Ohio’s natural resources. Since many business operations are similar, Ohio EPA’s general permit provides consistent standards and a “speed-of-business” approach to permitting.

