

\$141+
million

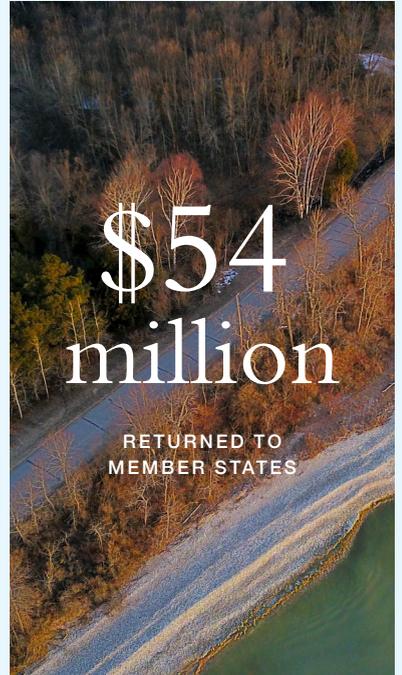
CURRENT ENDOWMENT VALUE



32
YEARS OF GREAT LAKES
PROTECTION

296

PROJECTS
SUPPORTED



\$91 million

AWARDED TO
PROJECT TEAMS

1

MISSION

7

MEMBER
STATES

40

MILLION
PEOPLE

84%

OF THE SURFACE WATER
SUPPLY IN NORTH AMERICA

20%

OF WORLD'S
FRESH WATER

5

GREAT LAKES

1000+

REGIONAL
INSTITUTIONS
INVOLVED

\$81 million

STATE CONTRIBUTIONS
TO THE ENDOWMENT



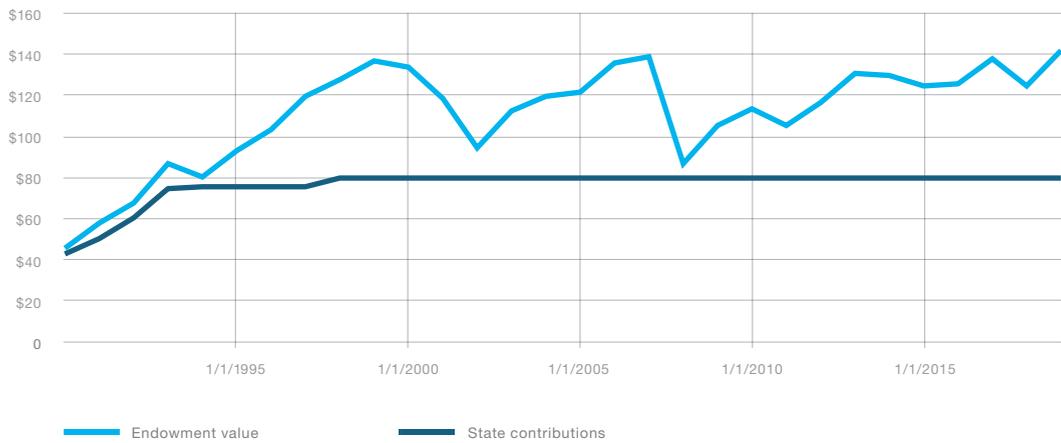
Great Lakes
Protection Fund



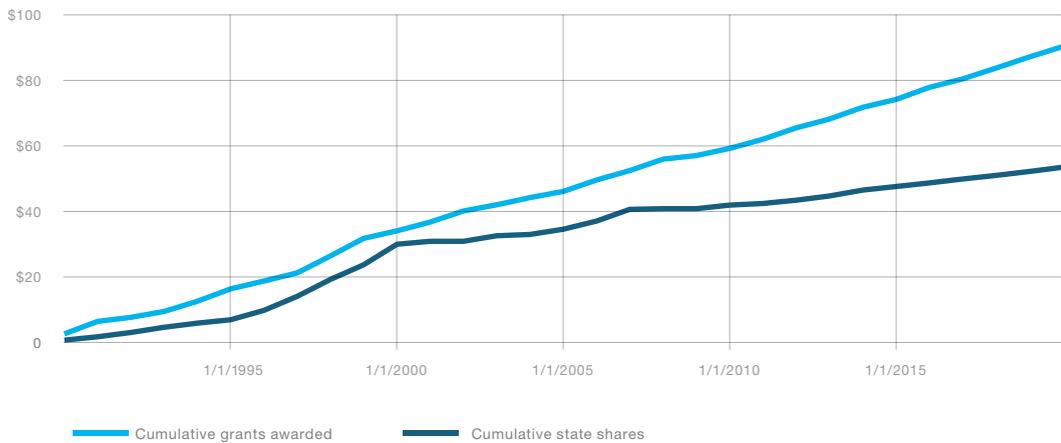
BY THE NUMBERS

	Original Contribution	Shares Returned to States
Illinois	\$15,000,000	\$7,597,687
Michigan	\$25,000,000	\$18,303,716
Minnesota	\$1,500,000	\$1,020,818
New York	\$12,000,000	\$8,028,186
Ohio	\$14,000,000	\$9,774,126
Pennsylvania	\$1,500,000	\$1,048,512
Wisconsin	\$12,000,000	\$8,202,194
	\$81,000,000	\$53,975,239

ENDOWMENT VALUE (IN MILLIONS)



STATE SHARES AND GRANT COMMITMENTS



“We are the Governors of one of the most vibrant areas in the world—the Great Lakes region. The health of our region is in large measure, dependent on the health of the lakes.”

LETTER OF INTENT RELATING TO THE GREAT LAKES PROTECTION FUND
SIGNED BY EIGHT GOVERNORS, FEBRUARY 3, 1988

Water continues to be this region’s most important resource, particularly as other regions encounter increasing stress on their water supplies. The Great Lakes region will rely on water as a competitive advantage to attract new residents, new industries, and to fortify the economy of the future.

The Great Lakes Protection Fund is an endowment that launches innovative solutions to improve the health of the Great Lakes. Our mission is to identify, demonstrate, and promote regional action to enhance the health of the Great Lakes ecosystem.

In 1989, eight governors founded the Fund as a private corporation capitalized with public funds to make the Great Lakes healthier. Our greatest return on investment is to enhance the value of a shared public asset, the Great Lakes.

The \$81 million in one-time state contributions is permanent and cannot be spent. Those contributions are invested in capital markets to produce income. Two-thirds of the net income supports regional innovation teams and one-third is sent directly back to member states for their own priorities (state shares).

The sitting governors are corporate members of the Fund and elect a board of directors to oversee the endowment and guide the programmatic strategy. Board members—drawn from business, academia, and the non-profit sector—are appointed to a two-year term. Directors are private citizens, generally drawn from C-Suites in the region, with finance and governance aptitude, a passion for innovation, and a drive to find new solutions for environmental issues.

The Fund maintains an innovation portfolio of projects totaling \$12-20 million. With expert advice, the portfolio is built to address opportunities within the governors’ shared priorities. In the near term, we will be seeking innovative strategies to advance the sustainable use of basin water resources, better control nutrient and other pollution from diffuse sources, and stop the impact of invasive species.

We are not your ordinary endowment. We take intelligent risks, bridge diverse interests, and launch high-impact solutions to protect and restore the physical, biological, and chemical integrity of the ecosystem.

Our charge is to design and finance a continuous stream of innovation that develops new ways to realize our vision of clean water in the right place, at the right time and in the right amounts to support a self-sustaining ecosystem. Our innovation portfolio includes new technologies, new business and operating models, and new financing strategies.

Successfully piloted lessons become new choices available to not only governments, but also the economic actors and citizens whose day-to-day decisions impact the health of the basin ecosystem.

TO IMPROVE THE LAKES' **PHYSICAL INTEGRITY**, OUR TEAMS HAVE:

- Created the legal, scientific, technical, and practical dimensions of what became the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact and associated Regional Agreement, stopping large scale diversions of water from the Lakes;
- Restored more natural flows in over 1500 miles of basin rivers through collaborative operating agreements for more than 100 hydroelectric facilities;
- Pioneered new ways to finance, facilitate, and evaluate the removal of more than a dozen dams in rivers that feed the lakes; and
- Developed a system for sustainably managed forest lands leading to certification of over 44,000,000 acres in basin states, protecting the lakes with improved land management.

TO IMPROVE THE LAKES' **BIOLOGICAL INTEGRITY**, OUR TEAMS HAVE:

- Designed, installed, and tested the world's first ballast water filtration system on a working vessel, laying the foundation for what is now a \$17.4 billion ballast technology industry, and helping to drastically reduce the rate of new invasions;
- Developed and demonstrated the first set of protocols to evaluate the effectiveness of ballast water treatment—on ship, on the shore, and in the lab;
- Developed, verified, and used the first set of methods to evaluate “hatch-out” of organisms that remain in ballast tanks after water is discharged; and
- Designed and deployed the first remote monitoring technologies to track water levels, pumping activity, and water chemistry in ballast tanks while ships are underway.

TO IMPROVE THE LAKES' **CHEMICAL INTEGRITY**, OUR TEAMS HAVE:

- Designed, deployed, evaluated, and exported the first water quality trading system that removed nutrients from the Great Lakes and became the basis for the national strategy on water quality trading;
- Created and deployed a series of planning and assurance tools—including whole farm planning, nutrient yardsticks, rotational grazing guidance, and best management practice warranties—used by hundreds of farms to remove sediment and nutrients from basin waters;
- Designed, launched, and sustained the Great Printers' Project removing thousands of tons of volatile organic compounds from the region's air, well in advance of regulatory requirements; and
- Launched a market-driven initiative with agricultural retailers that removed 7 million pounds of phosphorous from Great Lakes tributaries in the first three years.