

Make A Difference! Action Plan

Even just a few simple changes can make a big difference. Start small with one of these simple steps:

- Share this brochure with a friend, family and neighbors.
- Get involved with beach or creek cleanups and other local environmental activities.
- Be creative! Have a family contest to see who can be the best water conserver.
- Leave a legacy of clean water for future generations and teach them that contaminants not only impact the water they drink, but also the water they use for recreational activities, such as swimming, boating and fishing.
- Learn more from the stormwater management section of www.ClevelandWPC.com.
- Remember: **YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

**Protect.
Conserve.
Save.**

WPC MISSION STATEMENT

To provide superior leadership, excellent customer service and innovative stormwater and wastewater infrastructure management for a safe and sustainable environment.



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Department of Public Utilities
Division of Water Pollution Control

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Make A Difference! Knowledge Center

From our yards to our water:

The Lake Erie Watershed is the largest watershed in Northeast Ohio, and Lake Erie is our area's main source of drinking water. A watershed is an area of land where all the streams and rivers drain into a single larger body of water.

The stormwater drainage system carries rain water, snowmelt, and anything in its path to the nearest waterway in the watershed to avoid flooding. That rain water and snow melt, also called stormwater runoff, travels unfiltered and untreated into such area waterways as the Cuyahoga River, Doan Brook, and Euclid Creek. Those tributaries eventually flow into Lake Erie.

We all have the ability to Make A Difference!

Use these suggestions to help **PROTECT** our environment, **CONSERVE** water, and **SAVE** money and valuable resources.



Make A Difference! Tips

PROTECT:

- **Install a rain barrel or rain garden** to collect water runoff from your house. Slowing stormwater down helps reduce street and basement flooding.
- **Bag organic waste and dispose of it properly, or start a compost pile to use the waste as fertilizer.** Do not wash or sweep leaves down the storm drain. Leaves decompose and can add harmful chemicals to the water supply and clog storm drains.
- **Use a broom, instead of a hose, to clean sidewalks and driveways.** Sweeping allows you to control the amount of contaminants that might make their way to the storm drain.

CONSERVE & SAVE:

- **Do not over-water your lawn.** Over-watering can damage plants, stimulate fungus, leach nutrients out of the soil, and cause water runoff.
- **Insulate hot water pipes** to reduce the amount of water needed to run before hot water is delivered.
- **Fill a pitcher with tap water and put it in the fridge.** It's faster and less wasteful than running the tap each time you want a cold drink of water. Running the faucet can waste 3-7 gallons of water per glass.
- **Run a full dishwasher** because it uses the same amount of water whether the load is large or small. If washing dishes by hand, turn the water off between rinses or fill one side of the sink for rinsing only.

Make A Difference! Tool Box

PROTECT: Contamination of surface and ground water places our drinking water supply at risk. When storm drains are misused, they can become clogged or polluted, cause street and basement flooding, and harm our local waterways. Protect our water supply by properly disposing of trash, leaves, grass clippings, excess loose soil, pesticides, fertilizers, oil, antifreeze, pet waste, and other contaminants.

Just think, **“Only Rain Down The Storm Drain!”**

CONSERVE: Conserving water is important to preserve our fresh water supplies for future generations. It is also important in reducing the amount of stormwater runoff and the amount of water going to waste water treatment facilities.

SAVE: Water consumption impacts the amount we pay for water service, but it also affects our sewer rates. When we let water run, we impact the wastewater treatment process which increases the amount it costs to protect our water supply.

