

# Planning for Resilient Great Lakes Communities

Climate adaptation and resilience tools for small and medium-sized communities

- The International Joint Commission (IJC) helps Canada and the United States prevent and resolve issues over shared waters on 5,525 miles of boundary, including the Great Lakes.
- While communities of all sizes increasingly need to improve climate resiliency, small and medium-sized communities can be particularly limited by financial and human resources.
- The IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's *Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide* provides tools to help small and medium-sized communities develop water-related climate adaptation and resilience strategies.

## Overcoming barriers to effective climate resiliency planning

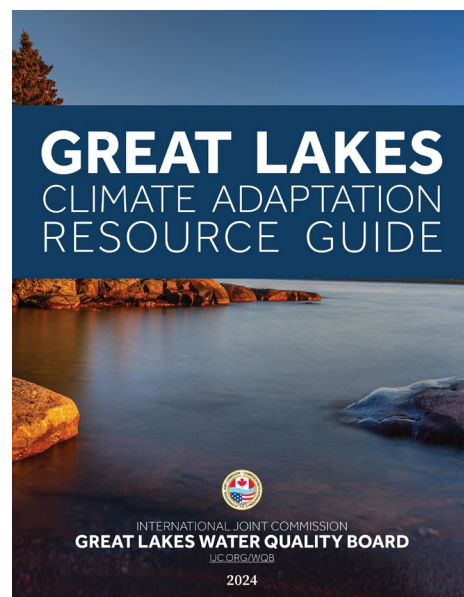
### Adaptation and resilience resources for small and medium-sized communities

Adaptation is the process of adjusting to actual or expected environmental changes to moderate harm or find opportunities. Resilience is the ability to adapt to actual or expected changes in the climate and its effects and recover rapidly. Increasing climate resiliency is critical for communities in the Great Lakes basin.

The project focuses on small (fewer than 10,000 population) to medium-sized (fewer than 500,000 population) communities. Small to medium-sized communities are particularly challenged in terms of the capacity and funding needed to adequately assess and address potential climate change effects.

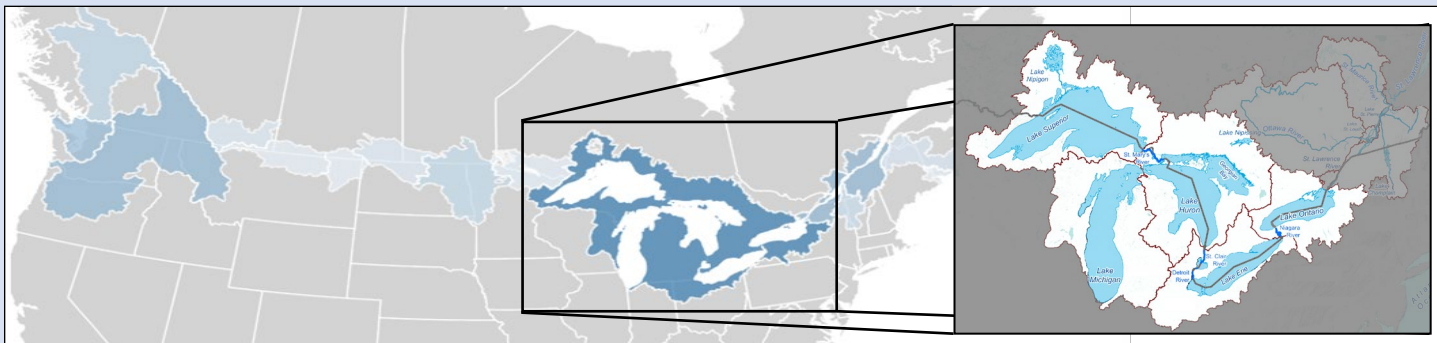
The IJC Great Lakes Water Quality Board's *Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide* is designed to help small and medium-sized communities identify resources and tools to support the development of climate adaptation and resilience strategies applicable to Great Lakes water topics.

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*The board's Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide*

### Where will this work impact?



*More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters*  
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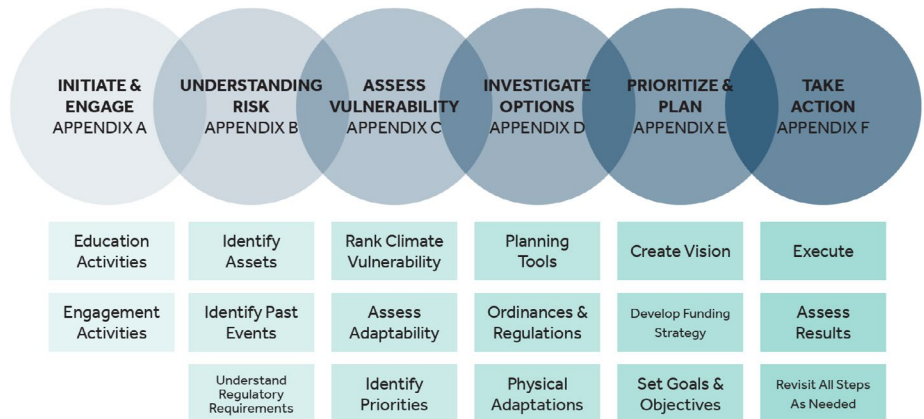


# Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide

Great Lakes Water Quality Board

The board's *Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide* has two volumes.

**Volume I: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Guide** provides an overview of regional climate-related priorities and current approaches to climate adaptation. The guide offers a simplified framework to help communities with planning and implementation (figure at right).



*Simplified Resilience Framework in the Resource Guide*

**Volume II: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Resources** links to tools to help communities develop adaptation and resilience strategies. Users can navigate resources by type of tool and geographic scope.

## The Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement

Under the Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement, the IJC's Water Quality Board recommends strategies to resolve existing and prevent future challenges facing the lakes and provides advice on the role of relevant jurisdictions in implementing these strategies. The purpose of the Agreement's "Climate Change Impacts" Annex 9 is to proactively address climate impacts on Great Lakes water quality in part by sharing information among Great Lakes resource managers and governments at every level. The board's *Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Resource Guide* aims to help communities understand, adapt to, and increase resilience to climate impacts.

## About the International Joint Commission

The IJC was established in 1909 under the Boundary Waters Treaty to help Canada and the United States prevent and resolve disputes over shared waters. The IJC's responsibilities include reporting on progress made by the governments under the 2012 Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement. The Great Lakes Water Quality Board advises the IJC to support the achievement of the Agreement.



Scan for more about this project!

## The Great Lakes ...



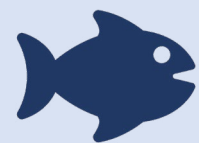
contain roughly 20 percent of the world's fresh surface water



support a US\$6 trillion (CAD\$7.5 trillion) regional economy



are a source of drinking water for 36 million people



are home to 4,000 species of plants and animals



More than a century of cooperation protecting shared waters  
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