

COMPASS

A report from
THE GREAT LAKES ST. LAWRENCE
GOVERNORS & PREMIERS



CHAIR'S LETTER

The past year was one of transition and success for our region and for the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers:

- **100% Great Lakes Fish** - We launched an innovative new project to research how we can use more of each fish that is caught from the Great Lakes to create more revenue and expand opportunities from our fish-based economy. Next year, we will expand our work from whitefish to include walleye, lake trout, yellow perch and white sucker. Stay tuned!
- **Cruising** - After a two-year pause, cruising returned to the Great Lakes and saw more cruise ships and passengers than ever. Pent-up demand, the work of our cruise marketing partnership, Cruise the Great Lakes, and a terrific product offered by the cruise lines, ports, and seaway and shoreside attractions have made the Great Lakes the place to be for adventure cruising.
- **Maritime Transportation** - After years of tireless effort, the new Soo Lock is now under construction and on track for completion by 2030. We will continue to work with the US Army Corps of Engineers to ensure that hands-free mooring and other technologies are included to maximize the safety and efficiency of the new lock.

I thank my fellow governors and premiers for their shared leadership on these successes and look forward to working with them in 2023 and beyond. I would also like to thank Governor Tom Wolf for his service and partnership and welcome Governor Josh Shapiro to the Conference. As ever, more work remains to be done but, together, we will accomplish our goals.



Tony Evers

Chair, Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers
Governor, State of Wisconsin

GSGP WELCOMES PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR JOSH SHAPIRO

On January 17, the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers welcomed Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro as the newest member of the Board of Directors.



Governor Shapiro previously served as Attorney general for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Prior to that, he served as Chairman of the Montgomery County Board of Commissioners and State Representative for Pennsylvania's 153rd House District.

REGIONAL REVENUE TO MANAGE CARBON COULD REACH HUNDREDS OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS

A combination of natural features and engineering innovations are among the reasons the Great Lakes St. Lawrence region is uniquely positioned to become a global hub for carbon capture, a landmark report finds.

The [new report](#), conducted by the University of Michigan's [Global CO2 Initiative](#), finds 52 gigatons (a gigaton equals one billion tons) of environmentally sound, high-quality carbon storage is possible regionwide by 2050. This storage capacity could generate US\$783 billion for the region due to the demands of the global carbon markets. Captured carbon can be used to manufacture many types of products from building materials to fuel, or it can be stored in underground geologic formations.

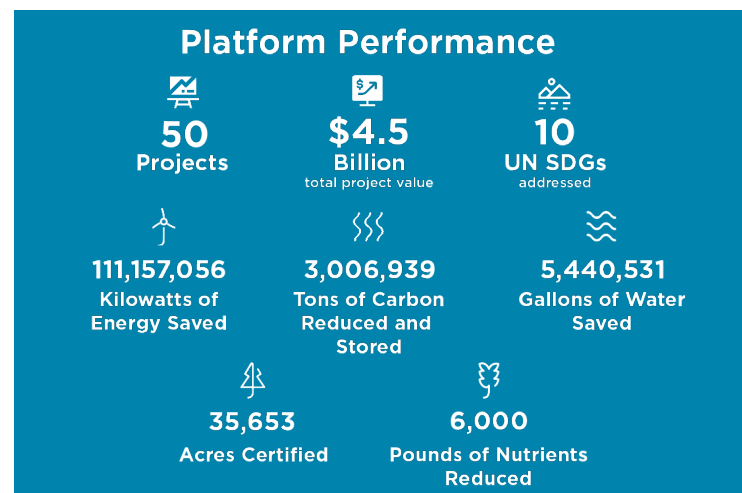
The region's abundant forests, agricultural lands and industrial sector have long been drivers of the regional and national economies. Significant geologic formations, combined with trees and other natural climate solutions, make the region a potential global hub for carbon management and high-quality carbon offsets as well as products that utilize waste carbon as a feedstock.

Globally, governments, corporations and others may seek up to 10 gigatons of carbon removal every year through 2050, and 20 gigatons annually from 2050 to 2100. The Great Lakes St. Lawrence region produces approximately 1.5 gigatons of carbon emissions annually, which means that 100% of the region's emissions can be stored locally, and there is additional storage potential that could create new regional revenues and positive environmental benefits through global carbon markets. The report includes recommendations to maximize this opportunity for economic growth and innovation in the region. [Click here to watch a webinar highlighting the report's findings.](#) ✨



Platform Welcomes 50th Project!

The Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform now includes 50 projects representing about \$4.5 billion in economic activity while addressing ten of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.



The 50th project: The New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) recently issued a US\$25.6M green bond. The Series 2022A green revenue bonds will fund energy efficiency improvements, solar electric systems, and ground source heat pumps for homes across New York State. [More information is available here.](#) ✨

An aerial photograph showing a large cargo ship docked at a concrete lock structure. The ship is positioned in a narrow waterway, and the surrounding area includes a grassy bank and some industrial buildings.

MARITIME

A DECARBONIZATION PLAN FOR GREAT LAKES SHIPPING

GSGP and a diverse research team recently began exploring future energy options for Great Lakes St. Lawrence shipping. The research project is funded by the U.S. Maritime Administration, and the team includes the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) and the American Bureau of Shipping (ABS), among others. The team is working to identify and evaluate alternative fuel and propulsion technologies with the potential to reduce emissions and improve the sustainability of the region's shipping industry. With critical insight from regional organizations like the Lake Carriers' Association and the American Great Lakes Ports Association, the project aims to develop a comprehensive strategy for transitioning the region's shipping industry and infrastructure to a cleaner, more sustainable future. This study will better position the region to compete for the \$3 billion granted to U.S. ports for electrification through the Inflation Reduction Act.



In a separate project, GSGP and Innovation Maritime (IMAR) are currently working on the second phase of a study exploring how biofuel use could reduce shipping costs and emissions of the fleet on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence. As part of this work, GSGP's David Naftzger and John Schmidt recently visited Rimouski, Québec, one of Canada's premier hubs for maritime technology research and development. The GSGP team met with Rimouski-based organizations including IMAR, Réseau Québec Maritime, Technopole Maritime du Québec and OpDAQ. As GSGP and its partners explore decarbonization strategies, cross-border partnership and collaboration will continue to play an important role. ✨

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

GSGP TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO BRAZIL AND CHILE

Are you looking to grow your export sales? Join GSGP's [trade mission to São Paulo, Brazil, and Santiago, Chile, from June 5-9, 2023](#). All participants will receive a customized, B2B meeting schedule with potential distributors, buyers and joint venture partners. Participants will benefit from market sector briefings, networking events and logistical support. State export assistance grants may offset 50-75% of mission costs. Let GSGP's Brazil and Chile Trade Offices save you valuable time and resources and maximize your results!

Brazil has the largest economy in South America. Key sectors include energy, infrastructure, health, chemicals, defense and aviation, telecom, and information and communications technology (ICT). The GSGP Brazil Trade Office will help you navigate

Brazil's complex regulatory and tax frameworks.

Chile is a strong trade partner for the U.S. and Canada. Key sectors include clean energy, healthcare, environmental tech, agricultural equipment, water resources, high-value food products, telecommunications, automotive parts, mining equipment and urban transportation.



[More information on the GSGP International Trade Program can be found here.](#) ✨

WATER MANAGEMENT

REGIONAL BODY AND COMPACT COUNCIL MEET IN QUEBEC CITY

The Regional Body and Compact Council met from December 14-16 in Québec City, Québec. The Compact Council elected Wisconsin Governor Evers as its Chair and New York Governor Hochul as its Vice Chair. Governor Evers and Governor Hochul will serve in these same roles for the Regional Body.

At the meeting, the Great Lakes Commission reported that the amount of water withdrawn across the Great Lakes St. Lawrence River Basin decreased by 1% in

2021. The Commission maintains the [Great Lakes Regional Water Use Database](#) and [the complete 2021 water use report is available here](#).

Separately, the Regional Science Team discussed opportunities to increase water conservation and efficiency. Presentation recordings can be found on the [Regional Body](#) and [Compact Council](#) websites. ✨

GREAT LAKES
ST. LAWRENCE
GOVERNORS
& PREMIERS



MEMBERS

Tony Evers,
Chair, Governor of
Wisconsin

Mike DeWine,
Vice Chair, Governor
of Ohio

Doug Ford,
Premier of Ontario

Kathy Hochul,
Governor of New York

Eric Holcomb,
Governor of Indiana

François Legault,
Premier of Québec

JB Pritzker,
Governor of Illinois

Josh Shapiro,
Governor of
Pennsylvania

Tim Walz,
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