

# COMPASS

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



## CHAIR'S LETTER

Even as we continue the hard work needed to overcome COVID-19, my fellow Governors and Premiers joined me in taking ambitious actions to grow our economy and protect our environment. Together, we are taking major steps toward a more sustainable future.

We adopted three resolutions. First, we united in support of a new Brandon Road Lock and Dam to help protect the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence from invasive carp that threaten our waters. We also committed to work together to secure full federal funding for this nationally significant project.

We pledged to identify and support communities that may be impacted by changes to the mix of energy production in the region. Our transition to a clean energy future must be done right to ensure that all workers, businesses and communities can meet their challenges and reap benefits in equitable measure.

We also celebrated the recent de-listing of the Area of Concern in Ashtabula, Ohio, and reaffirmed our commitment to clean up the region's other highly contaminated sites. The Governors and Premiers will persevere in working with one another and with federal partners to accelerate progress in remediating legacy toxic hot spots.

In addition to these new resolutions, we continue our work on water infrastructure, economic development and trade, maritime transportation, aquatic invasive species and impact investment. Our recent Leadership Summit webinar series has brought new energy and ideas to these issues. We welcome your partnership in this important work.

— Tony Evers

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



## GSGP WELCOMES NEW YORK GOVERNOR KATHY HOCHUL

On August 24, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers welcomed New York Governor Kathy Hochul as the newest member of the organization. A native of Buffalo, New York, Governor Hochul is the 57th Governor of New York State, and its first female Governor. Prior to becoming Governor, Hochul served as Lt.



Governor from 2015-2021. In that capacity, Governor Hochul became active in the work of the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers, attending the 2015 and 2019 Leadership Summits to serve as New York's head of delegation. ✦

## GOVERNORS & PREMIERS TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND GROW THE REGIONAL ECONOMY

On September 21, the Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors and Premiers announced a series of actions to protect the environment, promote sustainable economic growth, improve transportation and boost international trade. These ambitious actions, as outlined in the Chair's letter, will help to grow the region's US\$6 trillion economy and protect the world's greatest freshwater system.

- Committing to partner in support of a federally funded barrier against invasive carp threatening to enter the Great Lakes watershed at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam in Illinois.
- Working with one another and with federal partners to accelerate progress in remediating legacy toxic hot spots.
- Adopting a set of commitments to ensure a just transition toward a cleaner energy future.
- Launching a Five-Year Action Plan and a green shipping strategy to promote a smart and green regional maritime system.
- Harnessing the power of impact investing through the Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform.
- Developing innovative tools to prevent high-risk invasive species from harming the region, including a "pay for success" funding model developed with Quantified Ventures and the Invasive Species Centre, and a partnership with the Iceland Ocean Cluster to develop new strategies against invasive carp.

"I'm proud of the bold agenda we've put forth to grow our economies while protecting the Great Lakes watershed that connects all of us," said Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers, Chair of the Conference of Great Lakes and St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers. "By working together to transition to cleaner energy and

address harmful contaminants in our water, we can connect the dots on our economic recovery and ensure we're all moving toward a more equitable and sustainable future."

"We welcome the opportunity to work with our many partners from across the region to restore and protect our Great Lakes now and for future generations," said Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, Vice Chair of the Conference of Great Lakes St. Lawrence Governors & Premiers. "These policies will help our region advance by uniting behind a project to prevent invasive carp from entering the Great Lakes, supporting ongoing restoration work at our Areas of Concern, and promoting economic development projects."

"The Great Lakes serve as an extraordinary environmental and economic treasure for the entire region," said New York Governor Kathy Hochul. "It is our duty to protect and restore this critical resource, and I am committed to continue to advance this work in coordination with our partners across the region for the benefit of all New Yorkers and the nation."

Complete information, including the resolutions and other actions taken by the Governors and Premiers, [can be found here](#). Recordings of the recent Leadership Summit webinar series [are available here](#). ✨

## INTERNATIONAL TRADE

# GSGP TO LEAD TRADE MISSION TO SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN

GSGP is actively seeking companies from the region for an in-person multi-sector trade mission to South Korea and Japan from February 21 to February 25, 2022. The mission will include stops in Seoul and Tokyo.

Each mission participant will receive a customized schedule of B2B meetings to meet with prospective customers and business partners. Mission participants will also benefit from networking events and logistical support provided by the GSGP Japan & South Korea Trade Offices.

Grant funding is available for many Great Lakes St. Lawrence region companies to offset participation costs by 50-75%.

Interested in this dynamic market? [Join GSGP on Wednesday October 20 at 8:30 a.m. CDT for a FREE “Grow your exports to South Korea and Japan Webinar” for Great Lakes St. Lawrence region companies.](#)

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

## IMPACT INVESTMENT

# PREPARING FOR THE CHALLENGES OF TODAY AND TOMORROW

Challenges like shoreline erosion, flooding and the long-term impacts of climate change require new ideas and new solutions. The [Great Lakes Impact Investment Platform](#) is uniquely positioned to help solve some of these problems as it aligns environmental improvements with critical financial decisions.

The Platform now showcases 36 projects representing nearly US\$4 billion in project value. These projects aim to deliver both a financial return to investors and environmental benefits. Recently added projects include:

- [The Ontario Renewable Energy Co-operative's wind energy project located on the shores of](#)

### [Lake Huron in Ontario.](#)

- [Energy efficiency and renewable power generation in La Crosse, Wisconsin, financed by Johnson Controls.](#)
- [A long-term initiative to save water and reduce flooding in Toledo, Ohio, also financed by Johnson Controls.](#)

The need to deal with stormwater challenges like urban flooding while addressing equity and environmental justice is front and center in our region. The Platform will be hosting a webinar on Friday, November 5 at 2:00 p.m. EDT focused on Stormwater infrastructure and impact investment. [Please register here.](#) ✨

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

Tim Walz,  
Governor of Minnesota

Gretchen Whitmer,  
Governor of Michigan

Tom Wolf,  
Governor of  
Pennsylvania

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