

Ohio Balanced Growth Program

Fact Sheet: State Roles

State support for the Balanced Growth planning process

- The state will provide information on the restoration goals for the Lake Erie and Ohio River basins, the objectives of the Balanced Growth program and guidance for creating Watershed Planning Partnerships.
- The state will provide technical assistance and facilitation to assist local governments in the formation of the partnerships.
- The state provides financial support for watershed planning through the Lake Erie Protection Fund and other state programs.
- The state should assist WPPs in obtaining grants from outside sources.
- The Lake Erie Commission and Ohio Water Resources Council have developed a Balanced Growth planning toolkit to assist local Watershed Planning Partnerships. This toolkit includes methodologies for designating PCAs and PDAs, assistance on watershed planning, and a GIS-based decision support system.
- The state, through the State Assistance Work Group, has also developed a technical support network to assist Watershed Planning Partnerships in creating their Watershed Balanced Growth Plans.

Public Education

- The Lake Erie Commission and Ohio Water Resources Council coordinate existing watershed education programs and develop new educational resources to educate and involve citizens and public officials in the Balanced Growth Program.
- These educational efforts include an orientation program for Watershed Planning Partnerships, an information package communicating the benefits of the Balanced Growth Program, and a special outreach to organizations of local government officials, planning, design, and development professionals to expand awareness of Balanced Growth principles.

Plan Endorsement

The state reviews and endorses completed Watershed Balanced Growth Plans according to their agreement with existing state strategies, whether the plan identifies PCAs and PDAs, whether the planning process was open and inclusive, and whether the plan achieved local consensus. The state, through the Lake Erie Commission and the Ohio Water Resources Council, also provides guidance on the organization and presentation of information with the plan to assist in making it useful to the intended audiences.