



# Lake Erie: Keeping it a Great Lake

Follow these tips. Keep Lake Erie clean and healthy.

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## Get Involved

1. Join and support Friends of Stone Laboratory to help raise money and volunteer time for important Lake Erie research and education at Ohio State University's Stone Laboratory.
2. Join a local watershed or river protection group.
3. Join and support organizations that manage natural areas and environmental centers.
4. Volunteer for beach and shoreline cleanups.
5. Participate in curbside recycling and motor oil pick-up programs.



## Boat Clean

1. Become a Clean Boater. Learn more about this program and download a brochure on clean boating tips at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanboaters/](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanboaters/).
2. Dock your boat at a certified Clean Marina. Visit [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanmarinas/](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/cleanmarinas/) for a list of these marinas.

## Let Your Voice Be Heard

1. Support improvements to public sewer systems.
2. Take part in local discussions regarding land use and development led by county commissions, city officials, and township trustees in your community. Ask questions and voice your thoughts.
3. Tell your local elected officials to support Lake Erie and environmental programs.

## Save Energy and Money

1. Reduce your electrical use.
2. Turn down the heat. Wear sweaters.
3. Carpool, bus, bike, or walk.
4. Reduce, re-use, and recycle.
5. Install a programmable thermostat.
6. Drive sensibly. Speeding, rapid acceleration, and quick braking waste gasoline.
7. Clean or replace filters on furnaces.



## Conserve Water

1. Fill your sink with water instead of letting water run when you wash, brush teeth, or shave.
2. Repair leaks in sinks, toilets, etc.
3. Avoid watering your landscaping in the hottest hours of the day to minimize evaporation. Don't water on windy days.
4. Wash only full loads in your dishwasher and washing machine.
5. Pay attention to your water bill and become familiar with your water meter. Track your water use.
6. Install covers on pools and spas.
7. Use a broom instead of a hose to clean your driveway and sidewalk.
8. Adjust your lawn mower to leave grass longer.
9. Use low-phosphate detergents for washing dishes and laundry.





## Prevent Invasive Species

1. Wash your boat, anchor, and trailer thoroughly before transporting to another body of water.
2. Drain water from your boat motor, bilge, and wells before transporting elsewhere.
3. Clean your boots before hiking to a new area to get rid of hitchhiking weeds.
4. Don't release aquarium fish or live plants into the wild.
5. Don't transport firewood from one habitat to another.
6. Don't release live bait.
7. Don't transport live sport-caught fish to other waters.

## Plant Wisely

1. Plant native flowers and shrubs that don't require as much watering.
2. Use a thick layer of mulch to reduce evaporation.
3. Collect runoff from your roof in a rain barrel and use it to water your plants and gardens.
4. Plant 15 to 150 feet of native grasses, flowers, shrubs, and trees along the bank of streamside or lakefront property to prevent erosion, protect your property from potential flooding, and help water quality by creating a natural filter.
5. Use natural fertilizers and pesticides.
6. Create your own water gardens.

## Prevent Water Pollution

### Where You Live and Work

1. Wash your car on the grass or take it to a commercial car wash.
2. Make sure your septic tank is working properly.
3. Clean up vehicle leaks and fluid spills with kitty litter.
4. Repair vehicle leaks.
5. Recycle antifreeze.
6. Dispose of used motor oil in a container with a tight lid and take it to a landfill.

## Be a Savvy Consumer

1. Install low-flow toilets and shower heads.
2. Install faucet aerators to reduce the amount of water used.
3. Purchase energy- and water-efficient appliances.
4. Buy compact fluorescent light bulbs with the ENERGY STAR® label.
5. Purchase non-toxic and environmentally friendly products as much as possible, including cleaning products and paints. Dispose of these properly.

## Contribute to the Future

1. Teach future scientists and educators by supporting student scholarships at Stone Laboratory. Make a donation to the Tuition Reduction Fund at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate).
2. Keep our country's teachers updated on important science and education techniques. Support teacher-training scholarships at Stone Laboratory by making a donation to the Fortner Fund at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate).
3. Support new discoveries about Lake Erie by supporting Ohio Sea Grant research. Make a donation to the Franz and Kate Stone Fund at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate).
4. Educate community leaders, residents, and others by supporting Ohio Sea Grant research. Make a donation to the Sea Grant Advisory Service Fund at [ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/donate).

These tips for a cleaner, healthier Lake Erie were brought to you by Stone Laboratory, Ohio State University's Island Campus on Lake Erie and the education and research facility of the Ohio Sea Grant College Program. Ohio State's Ohio Sea Grant program is part of NOAA Sea Grant, a network of 32 Sea Grant programs dedicated to the protection and sustainable use of marine and Great Lakes resources.

For information on Ohio Sea Grant and Stone Lab, visit [ohioseagrant.osu.edu](http://ohioseagrant.osu.edu).