



Landscape Conservation and Management

By landscaping with native plants, using little or no fertilizer, watering less, and using rainwater for irrigation a business can not only save on water use costs, but also promote healthy soil and an environment for all organisms to thrive.

- Business landscapes with native plant, minimizing the need for excess water use.
Expected date of completion _____
- Watering, when necessary, takes place at early morning or night to minimize evaporation.
Expected date of completion _____
- Organic and low phosphate fertilizers are used when landscaping
Expected date of completion _____
- Rainwater/stormwater is collected onsite through rain gardens, barrels, or by other means.
Expected date of completion _____
- Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____

**Please fill out and return to:
 Superior Watershed Partnership
 1030 Wright Street,
 Marquette, Michigan 49855**

Be sure to make a copy for your records.

Also, feel free to call the SWP office at (906) 228-6095 with any questions.



The Great Waters

Nature's Adventure where Huron, Michigan & Superior Meet



DOING OUR PART VOLUNTARY CHECKLIST

Great Waters "Doing Our Part" program is an easy and voluntary program recognizing businesses that have made a commitment to improve their operations in order to reduce their environmental impact. Adopting even a portion of the measures below can result in a savings of up to 30% or more on energy costs. In addition, US travelers prefer green businesses. According to the Travel Industry Association of America, 43 million people within the U.S. are self-proclaimed "eco-tourists" who are willing to pay 8.5% more to environmentally sensitive travel suppliers. Another survey of U.S. travelers found 87% would be more likely to stay at "green" properties. These statistics alone should be a good reason to adopt practices that lessen your carbon footprint and save your business money.

How does a business become certified?

A business can become certified by completing the checklist and sending it to the Superior Watershed Partnership office. Please check all boxes that your business has already implemented OR is making a commitment to implement. **Businesses that commit to doing at least 20 steps will receive the Great Waters Conservation Program Certification.** Please note that if your business commits to achieving a particular item (and has not already done so), the Expected Date of Completion MUST be filled in. The Expected Date of Completion must be within **six months** of submitting the certification form. Please feel free to write notes at the end of each section (or use additional sheets of paper) if necessary to explain a specific situation.

If your business currently uses or plans to use an approach not listed that meets the goals for that section, please list it in the *Creative Best Practices* space at the end of each section. An example of a *Creative Best Practice* might be if your business uses a local ink cartridge refilling dealer for printers instead of recycling cartridges which costs more to do and requires energy to transport the cartridge.

The checklist contains criteria for 6 different sections entitled:

- A. Information and Education
- B. Local Community Benefits
- C. Water Conservation and Wastewater Management
- D. Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Management
- E. Waste Reduction, Reuse and Recycling
- F. Landscape Conservation and Management



Information and Education (Customers, Employees and the Public)

It is important to educate and increase awareness of your customers, employees and public about simple actions they can take to help your business conserve energy and protect the environment. At the same time, letting your customers know about the ways you are greening your business will create market distinction. Customers will support businesses that have reduced their environmental footprint and will spread the word about their experiences. In addition, it is especially important to provide training and educational opportunities for your employees about the environmental improvements the business is making.

- The business provides training and educational opportunities to engage employees in the actions of the Great Waters Conservation Program.
Expected date of completion _____
- Literature is distributed about how the business is improving its environmental impact through-out the facility and/or community.
Expected date of completion _____
- Information about the company environmental policy is included on their website
Expected date of completion _____
- Information about the company environmental policy is included in advertising materials.
Expected date of completion _____
- Is there someone on staff to monitor energy consumption?
Expected date of completion _____
- Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____



Waste Reduction, Reuse, and Recycling

It is estimated that each person living in the U.S. produces 4lbs. of trash each day. Where does it all go? More than 70% goes directly into the ground in landfills. A business can potentially make a huge difference in this number by taking some simple steps to minimize excess waste.

- A recycling program is in place (depending on the local municipal recycling options) at the business that involves the participation of both employees and customers. The program includes placing recycling bins and signs in places that make it easy for recycling and offer recycling of items regularly recycled by the local municipality or County.
Expected date of completion _____
- Fluorescent bulbs are properly recycled at the end of their useful life.
Expected date of completion _____
- Hazardous waste materials (including expired oil-based paint, fertilizers, pesticides, toxic cleaners, household and car batteries, etc.)* are properly identified and disposed.
Expected date of completion _____
- Printers and copiers are set to print on both (2) sides by default.
Expected date of completion _____
- Excess food, toiletry items, linens, furniture, and/or other items are donated to local charities and shelters where available.
Expected date of completion _____
- A composting program is in place for landscape (yard) waste.
Expected date of completion _____
- Remodeling projects are certified as Green. Examples of certification programs are at the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED Program: www.usgbc.org.
Expected date of completion _____
- Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____

Windows are opened (when possible) instead of running air conditioners.
Expected date of completion _____

HVAC is set to timed/movement sensors in low traffic areas.
Expected date of completion _____

Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____



Local Community Benefits

The local community needs to benefit from tourism in the U.P. By providing jobs, educational and training opportunities, health care, and environmental stewardship, a local business is actively contributing to the economic sustainability of a community.

The company staff consists of local people when possible.
Expected date of completion _____

Local fish, meat and produce are purchased when possible.
Expected date of completion _____

Literature promoting local businesses is provided.
Expected date of completion _____

Business is a member of the local Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, lake association, conservation organization and/or historical society.
Expected date of completion _____

Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____



Water Conservation and Wastewater Management

The Great Waters region lies within 3 major drainage basins to Lake Michigan, Lake Superior, and Lake Huron. Depending on where you are in the eastern U.P., water falling to the ground or traveling to a river from your sink, could end up in one of these Great Lakes. Conserving water not only means reducing consumption, but also maintaining and monitoring the quality of water we put back into the environment. A hotel can save up to \$25,000 annually (depending on hotel size and occupancy rates) through decreased water and laundry detergents.

- Wastewater is reduced at your facility (establish a linen reuse program). Please give a brief description about your facilities wastewater management system.

Expected date of completion _____
- Reclaiming or capturing rainwater for irrigation use.
Expected date of completion _____
- Dishwashers and washing machines are filled to recommended capacity for each cycle and the most energy-efficient recommended water temperature is used.
Expected date of completion _____
- Non-toxic, phosphate-free, biodegradable detergents and cleaning products are used. Please list the names of these products:

Expected date of completion _____
- A regular maintenance schedule is in place to find and repair leaky faucets, toilets, showerheads, and pipes.
Expected date of completion _____
- Creative Best Practice

Expected date of completion _____

Notes: _____



Energy Efficiency, Conservation and Management

Implementing energy efficiency and conservation programs in your operations will help conserve natural resources and make your business more attractive to tourists. These practices can also reduce operational costs up to 330%, providing a quick return of a simple investment.

- Completed an energy audit/assessment to consider upgrading to more efficient lighting, HVAC systems and appliances. If your business is interested in an energy audit, please call the Superior Watershed Partnership at (906) 228-6095 or go to Michigan Department of Energy at www.michigan.gov.
Expected date of completion _____
- ENERGY STAR qualified lighting fixtures, appliances, office equipment, other electronics, and heating and cooling systems are in place or on replacement schedule.
Expected date of completion _____
- Existing light bulbs and/or incandescent lighting are replaced with compact fluorescents.
Expected date of completion _____
- HVAC system is on at least an annual regular preventative maintenance schedule to prevent and/or fix problems which may reduce efficiency.
Expected date of completion _____
- Use of renewable energy sources (such as solar, wind, biomass, thermal). For more information visit the *U.S. Department of Energy* at www.eere.energy.gov.
Expected date of completion _____
- Purchase of renewable energy/power through a local utility company (if available). Please list the type of renewable energy purchased and how much of the total energy consumed this accounts for.

Expected date of completion _____
- Buildings designed to incorporate passive solar heating. For more information please visit www.greenbulthome.org.
Expected date of completion _____
- Customers are informed of energy conservation practices and provided with energy saving tips.
Expected date of completion _____
- Guest rooms have operable windows.
Expected date of completion _____