

NONPOINT SOURCE POLLUTION EDUCATIONAL PRIMER MODULES

The Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are proud to announce three educational primer modules on nonpoint source (NPS) pollution. These PowerPoint presentations are designed to provide an introductory overview of what NPS pollution is and how it can be controlled. The intended audiences are the general public, elected officials and their staff, and agency and organizational staff members who are new to the subject.

Soil erosion and NPS pollution, combined, is one of the priority issues facing the Great Lakes and a focus area of the Obama Administration's Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. Loadings of eroded soils and diffuse pollution have adverse environmental and economic impacts. The excessive loadings increase algae blooms and dead zones in the Lakes and reduce water depths in harbors and shipping channels, increasing the need for dredging and the costs to navigation users.

The educational primer modules were developed by the Great Lakes Commission in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the Great Lakes Tributary Modeling program. The Great Lakes Tributary Modeling program was established through Section 516(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996. This authority enables the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to develop sediment transport models and other tools to assist state and local agencies with the planning and implementation of measures for soil conservation and NPS pollution prevention. The ultimate goals of this program are to reduce the loading of sediments and pollutants to tributaries in order to enhance Great Lakes water quality, help delist Great Lakes Areas of Concern (AOCs), and reduce the need for navigation dredging of Great Lakes ports and harbors.

Three educational primer modules have been developed: 1) urban and suburban NPS pollution, 2) agricultural and rural land NPS pollution, and 3) forest and inland lakes NPS pollution. Each module presents a general overview of NPS pollution and its impacts, with a special emphasis on effects in the Great Lakes basin. This is followed by an implementation section with numerous slides on possible Best Management Practices for addressing that particular type of NPS pollution. Not all NPS pollution sources or implementation practices shown in the modules will pertain to every local situation, but they do exist somewhere in the Great Lakes basin. Spending a few moments on these nonlocal issues will provide a broader knowledge of the subject.

The educational modules are intended to be shown by presenters throughout the Great Lakes basin who are knowledgeable about NPS pollution. They are designed to be used as developed, but audiences will benefit from the presenter's unique perspectives and the use of local examples is encouraged. The modules are not timed and each presenter should take as much time as necessary to explain any particular slide. This will allow ample opportunity to focus the presentation in the most appropriate way and allow presenters to answer any questions the audience may tender.

Informational agency guides have been developed for each state that can be handed out at in-person presentations. These guides provide contact information of local, state and federal agencies and other organizations dealing with NPS pollution and were designed to be printed locally, either as a four page handout or as a folded booklet on eleven by seventeen inch paper.

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The Educational Primer Modules, the State NPS Pollution Agency Guides, and additional resources can be found on the Great Lakes Tributary Modeling Program website at: <http://projects.glc.org/tributary/NPSprimer.html>.

A suggested format for using the modules:

- Review the module before the meeting date.
- Prepare examples of what and where NPS pollution is occurring locally.
- Prepare examples of what local practices are being used to control NPS pollution.
- Prepare a set of questions to pose to the audience.

Material needed:

- Laptop computer with Microsoft PowerPoint or Adobe Reader capability.
- Downloaded educational primer module(s) as either a .PPT (PowerPoint) or .PDF (Adobe) file.
- Projector and screen.
- Printed State NPS Pollution Agency Guides (optional).

For more information, contact:

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