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# Location in the United States

Share “wet” border with Canada (Ontario)



20% of worlds fresh  
surface water

# Fresh Water Innovation Cluster



## ➤ Lake Erie Basin:

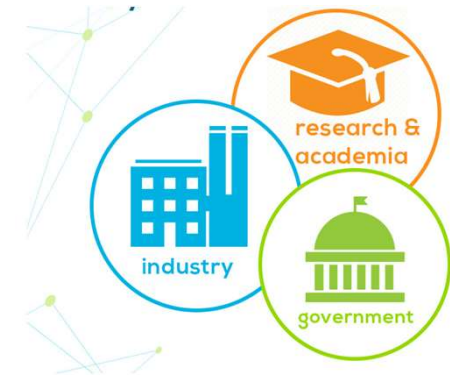
- ✓ Shallowest, warmest, most biodiverse
- ✓ Confluence of agriculture and industry
- ✓ Robust Ports connect with Europe by way of St. Lawrence Seaway
- ✓ 11+m drinking water residents



## ➤ Burning-River History: Birth of the Clean Water Act

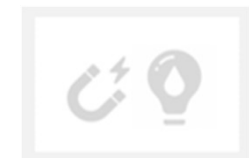
## ➤ One of the highest concentrations of water-industry expertise in the world

- ✓ 300+ water-solutions companies
- ✓ Water and wastewater utilities investing \$500M/year
- ✓ Over 16,000 blue-economy jobs in Northeast Ohio
- ✓ Adding over **300+ net new 'blue economy' jobs annually**
- ✓ Greater job creation than Bio-health, Aerospace, Advanced Energy & Additive Manufacturing



# CWA Core Programming

- Industry Driven Cluster
- Smart Sensing
- Nutrient Management / Agriculture Partnerships
- Multi-Community Citizen Science – Field Seasons & Establishing Standards
- Open Innovation Programming
- Testbed Development
- Funding Channels to Support Innovation
- Connecting the Sectors...



## Lessons Learned on Multi-Sector Engagement

- Market Driven – Are we focused on industry challenges that matter?
- Value Propositions for Engagement – Are we solving problems / filling gaps for our regional stakeholders?
- Partnering for the Regional Water-Economy Ecosystem – Workforce, job connections, water equity, ...



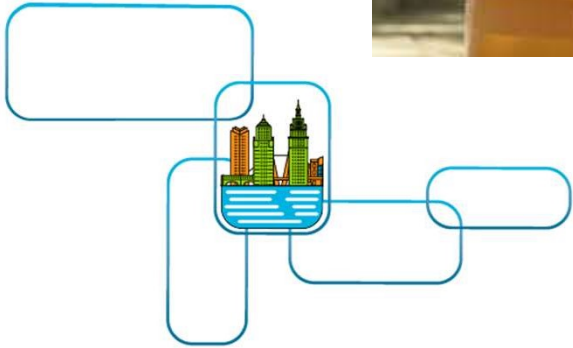
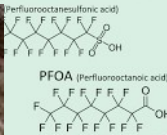
# Importance of a Regional Economic Development Strategy...

## New generation of challenges:

cleveland water alliance



PFAS



# Connecting Efforts All Over the World

- **“Market driven”**

*If we pull together around significant challenges, our impact will be bigger...and faster*

- **Collaborate R&D on challenges with multi-regional impact**
- **Provide opportunities to test and validate innovations in all kinds of different environments**
- **Accelerate adoption across different markets...**
- **Expand opportunities for our regional constituents...**



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