

## **Illinois**

Water loss is a particularly important issue in Illinois, where approximately 91% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Illinois's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 1,475.66 million gallons of water per day for treatment and distribution to customers. Those public water suppliers face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$20.91 billion for Illinois's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The agency oversees the Illinois Lake Michigan Water Allocation Program and Level of Lake Michigan Act, which require all entities diverting water from Lake Michigan to submit an annual water audit form to DNR for review. These are the only entities in the state required to submit information on water loss.

In 2014, the Illinois EPA launched an initiative to begin training water utilities across the state on the AWWA Free Water Audit Software; training is set to begin in December 2014. The Illinois EPA convened a steering committee, which includes NRDC, to oversee the implementation of this effort. Illinois EPA is also planning to provide technical assistance to help utilities implement audit results.

### **The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Compact**

Illinois is one of eight states that border the Great Lakes, which comprise more than one-fifth of the world's surface supply of freshwater and more than 95 percent of the surface freshwater supply in the U.S. Management and use of water in the Great Lakes states is governed by the Great Lakes–St. Lawrence River Basin Water Resources Agreement and Compact. In ratifying the Compact, each state agreed to undertake a series of actions, including the establishment of thresholds governing new or increased withdrawals of water and development of water conservation and efficiency programs. Illinois' implementation of a water loss accounting program is an important part of its compliance with the water conservation and efficiency requirements of the Compact.

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2015", September 28, 2017- <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59a96d18e4b07e1a023db323>

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress", March 2018 - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth\\_drinking\\_water\\_infrastructure\\_needs\\_survey\\_and\\_assessment.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf)

Illinois DNR Lake Michigan Water Allocation -

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/waterresources/pages/lakemichiganwaterallocation.aspx>

“Great Lakes Facts and Figures” -- [great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html](http://great-lakes.net/lakes/ref/lakefact.html).

“Protecting a Shared Future: Assessing and Advancing the Sustainable Management of the Great Lakes Through Water Conservation and Efficiency”-- [nrdc.org/water/files/greatlakescompact.pdf](https://nrdc.org/water/files/greatlakescompact.pdf).