

## **Ohio**

Water loss is an important issue in Ohio, where approximately 84% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Ohio's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 1,306.28 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 \$13.41 billion for Ohio's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agencies with jurisdiction over water loss reporting are the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC) and the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO), which regulates investor owned utilities. Water loss reporting is reviewed during rate cases. Greater than 15% "unaccounted for water" is considered excessive, triggering compliance action.

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

Ohio 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. The implementation of a water loss accounting program can help Ohio comply 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)

PUCO: <http://www.puco.ohio.gov/puco/>

OCC: <http://www.occ.ohio.gov/water/>

"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](http://nrdc.org/water/files/greatlakescompact.pdf).