



POLICY AGENDA

Over the past decade, it has become increasingly clear that toxic PFAS chemicals — which are used in everything from furniture, carpeting, clothing and cookware to food packaging, child car seats, and fire-fighting foam — are responsible for serious health impacts to people, fish and other wildlife. Across the Great Lakes region, PFAS have been found at alarming concentrations in drinking water, ground water, surface water, rain water, biosolids, people and wildlife.

The Great Lakes PFAS Action Network (GLPAN) is a coalition of impacted communities, joined together with environmental and conservation organizations to create a unified voice for strong policies that protect communities, people, fish and other wildlife from toxic contamination.

It will take bold action by all levels of government — local, state and federal — to truly mitigate the presence of PFAS in our environment, but it can be done with a deep commitment by elected officials, businesses, and the public.

The following are a collection of imperative policy solutions that must be pursued to protect Michigan and the entire Great Lakes region's environment and our public health. They are broken down by both legislative and administrative actions, and we have noted any states that have enacted such policies:

GREAT LAKES PFAS ACTION NETWORK

POLICY AGENDA



01

**PROTECT AND SUPPORT
PFAS-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES**



02

**PREVENT FUTURE PFAS
CONTAMINATION**



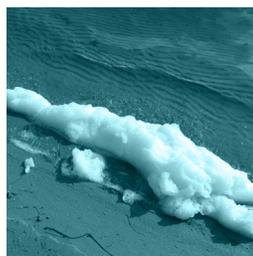
03

**TEST & MONITOR MORE
TO UNDERSTAND OUR FULL
EXPOSURE**



04

**HOLD CORPORATE AND
GOVERNMENT PFAS
POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE
FOR CLEANUP COSTS**



05

**FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS
TO CLEAN UP EXISTING PFAS
CONTAMINATION**

PROTECT AND SUPPORT PFAS-IMPACTED COMMUNITIES

Impacted residents deserve transparency from governmental authorities about the presence of PFAS in their communities. Communities deserve and expect protection from future exposure and access to clean water. It is time our states across the Great Lakes region put the health of our residents first, starting with the following action items:



Prevent further contamination in impacted communities

STATE AND FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE:

Ensure that PFAS disposal does not further contaminate communities already overburdened by toxic chemicals, including low-income communities and communities of color. For example, PFAS wastes should not be incinerated. States and the federal government should invest in research and technology to find innovative ways to completely destroy PFAS and its waste.

Support impacted communities by providing clean drinking water

LEGISLATIVE AND ADMINISTRATIVE:

Ensure residents of PFAS-impacted communities have safe drinking water at no-cost to residents by regularly testing community and private water supplies for PFAS. Provide alternate drinking water sources for residents with contaminated water (switching community water supplies, providing bottled water, etc.).

INSTITUTED IN:



Increase availability of blood and health testing

LEGISLATIVE:

Hold PFAS polluters responsible for funding regular blood testing, biomonitoring, and other health studies in PFAS-impacted communities.

Require insurance companies to cover blood testing for PFAS-impacted residents.

Increase transparency with impacted communities

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Require the governmental agency responsible for PFAS detection, remediation or community health to notify PFAS-impacted communities as soon as a problem is suspected.

Government agencies responsible for PFAS detection and remediation in communities already overburdened by toxic chemicals should incorporate environmental justice principles and health equity into their communications, programming, and policies.





PREVENT FUTURE PFAS CONTAMINATION

PFAS contamination is particularly pervasive in the Great Lakes region, and the number of contaminated sites climbs higher with every passing year. We must reduce the risk to public health, wildlife and the environment by working to eliminate toxic PFAS contamination sources — often times from waste discharge, firefighting foams, food packaging production, and household products.

Ban the use of PFAS- containing firefighting foams

LEGISLATIVE:

Ban the sale and use of PFAS-containing firefighting foam.



INSTITUTED IN:
NV, NH, NY
CA, ME, MN

FEDERAL:

Have the FAA immediately issue new regulations allowing airports to use PFAS-free firefighting foams, as has been done at airports in many other countries.

The Department of Defense should update the MIL-SPEC, MIL-PRF-24385, to allow for the use of other effective firefighting foams that do not contain PFAS.

Reduce contamination risks from disposal facilities

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Ban incineration of waste containing PFAS chemicals, and ensure that the disposal and elimination of PFAS protects public health and does not unjustly burden communities housing waste disposal facilities.

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ NY

LEGISLATIVE:

Develop recommendations for management of PFAS-containing landfill leachate to limit discharge.

Protect people from PFAS contamination

LEGISLATIVE:

Prohibit the sale of all PFAS-containing products for all non-essential uses.

Prohibit PFAS in food packaging and food-contact materials and cosmetics.

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ ME

Require PFAS warning labeling on consumer products and packaging, and then lead a branding campaign to certify PFAS-free products.

Stop PFAS at the source

LEGISLATIVE:

Create and fund a PFAS buyback program for firefighting foams and other high concentration PFAS-containing products.

Increase funding for local governments to proactively address potential drinking water impacts, especially when contamination is suspected.

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ WA
CO, CT

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Prohibit state agencies from procuring all PFAS-containing products.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FEDERAL:

Regulate PFAS chemicals as a class. There are over 4,700 different PFAS chemicals - only a small fraction of which are currently regulated in states across the Great Lakes region.



TEST & MONITOR MORE TO UNDERSTAND OUR FULL EXPOSURE



While there have been more than 160 contaminated sites identified in the state of Michigan alone, the full extent of the PFAS crisis in the Great Lakes region is still unknown. PFAS in groundwater can impact private and community drinking water supplies while contaminating fish and other wildlife. Additionally, while PFAS chemicals have been found in a wide variety of food sources — a consequence of biosolid-based fertilizers — we do not know the real impact on our agricultural sector.

To fully understand all the ways in which we are being exposed on a daily basis to this toxic family of chemicals, we need robust and rigorous testing and bio-monitoring. We need to invest in more research and identification of all our exposure pathways to PFAS, and make accessible blood testing so people can understand their health risks.

Map and monitor contaminated lands and waters

LEGISLATIVE

Appropriate funding for statewide geological surveys that will map the presence of a broad suite of chemical contaminants, including PFAS.

Increase funding to expand PFAS monitoring and testing for surface water bodies and groundwater, especially in rural residential areas that are not serviced by community water supplies.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Develop an interactive map and geo-database of known PFAS discharge locations and impacted air, land, water, fish and other wildlife in all states across the region. Expand existing maps to fully capture all known sources and impacted locations.

Protect fish and wildlife through research and regulation

ADMINISTRATIVE

Increase research for PFAS tissue sampling in fish and wildlife and increase funding to process tests in a timely manner.

Support studies (laboratory and field) on potential PFAS health impacts to fish and wildlife, including a broader suite of bird, reptile and amphibian, and mammalian species.

Request federal eco-toxicological studies for specific wildlife and/or fish species as part of the 2022 National Defense Authorization Act, with the ultimate goal of pursuing a request to establish federal ambient water quality criteria.

Establish science-based PFAS standards for fish and wildlife.

Address PFAS contamination in biosolid-based fertilizers and agricultural products

LEGISLATIVE

Fund research to assess the hazards of growing crops in and raising animals on PFAS-contaminated soil, with the ultimate goal of establishing health-based criteria for food products (dairy, crops, meat, etc.).

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ MN, ME

ADMINISTRATIVE

Establish health-based standards for biosolids.

Regulate the application of PFAS-containing biosolids and ban the application of highly contaminated biosolids on agricultural soils.

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ ME

INSTITUTED IN:
✓ ME

Sample wastewater effluent at treatment plants for the full suite of PFAS chemicals before effluent is used to create biosolid containing fertilizers.

HOLD CORPORATE AND GOVERNMENT PFAS POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR CLEANUP COSTS

Corporations, manufacturers and government agencies who use and discharge PFAS must be held accountable for the impacts on human health and the costs to address it. “Polluters Pay” policies would require corporate polluters, not taxpayers, to pay for cleanup efforts and health care costs for PFAS-impacted communities. The U.S. Department of Defense and other government agencies responsible for historic and ongoing PFAS pollution should be held the same standard.

Require PFAS polluters to clean up their contamination

ADMINISTRATIVE

Make companies financially responsible for “worst case scenario” levels of cleanup by establishing higher and tighter bonding requirements in order to operate their business.

Hold polluters financially responsible for cleaning up PFAS pollution and the harm it has caused communities in the event of a discharge.

INSTITUTED IN:
 VT

Require property owners to be fully transparent with governmental agencies as they are monitoring and reporting PFAS contamination as soon as a release occurs.

Hold polluters accountable for costs through the justice system

LEGISLATIVE

Revise or eliminate the statute of limitations for filing actions around PFAS and other contaminants to allow citizens a path to financial compensation when legacy pollution has impacted their property.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Hold business leaders civilly and criminally liable in the event that their PFAS release impacts human health and/or negatively impacts public or private property.

Hold PFAS polluters jointly and severally liable for contamination to hold more polluters accountable.

Collect punitive damages from companies that violate their environmental permits or discharge PFAS as a percentage of their revenue.

Close self-regulation pathways for polluters

LEGISLATIVE

In Michigan, repeal the 'no stricter than federal' law, which prohibits a state department from enacting rules more stringent than required by federal standards.

Repeal the Permit Appeal and Rules Review 'Polluter Panels,' which add unnecessary layers of red-tape overseeing EGLE decision-making.



FIND INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO CLEAN UP EXISTING PFAS CONTAMINATION

The presence of PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, and soil poses an immediate threat to public health. We must remediate and clean up contaminated sites to stop exposure to PFAS and neutralize the risks it poses to communities. We must use both public and private research institutions to develop innovative ways to safely dispose of PFAS.

Work with local and federal governments to clean up high risk sites

LEGISLATIVE

Continue appropriating state resources for drinking water, groundwater, and wildlife monitoring and testing.

Expand funding for testing and remediation at municipal airports.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Urge federal agencies (e.g. Department of Defense, EPA, DHHS) to remediate PFAS contamination in water and land, especially at military air force bases and industrial sites.

Work with the federal government to expand PFAS testing and monitoring in fish and wildlife around military bases to locate and target potential remediation sites.

Support impacted communities through state-led remediation efforts

LEGISLATIVE

Create a state PFAS remediation fund to support local communities affected by PFAS contamination in the event that a responsible polluter is not held liable by a court of law.

INSTITUTED IN:



Continue funding local governments to address impacted drinking water sources, conduct site investigation, and remediate contaminated sites.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND FEDERAL

Partner with research universities and businesses to study PFAS disposal methods that minimize risks to public health and the environment, especially those that “break down” the PFAS chemical into inert components.

INSTITUTED IN:



ADMINISTRATIVE

Update cleanup criteria standards to ensure they represent the best available science and create an expedited regulatory pathway that allows for further updates when needed to protect public health.

Make public health and PFAS Action a long-term government priority

LEGISLATIVE

Codify the roles of government PFAS response agencies (such as the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART)) to ensure PFAS response efforts are consistent and not prematurely ceased.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Create a comprehensive PFAS Action Plan to guide state decision making, funding allocations, and research and monitoring activities at contaminated sites (ex: Minnesota’s PFAS Blueprint).

GREAT LAKES PFAS ACTION NETWORK

The Great Lakes PFAS Action Network is a coalition centered around and driven by people impacted by toxic PFAS pollution. We are on a mission to prevent and clean up toxic PFAS contamination.

Source context:

These PFAS policy actions were sourced from impacted community members of the Great Lakes PFAS Action Network, as well as input from environmental, health, and policy experts. A variety of existing policy initiatives and agendas informed the agenda including: Michigan League of Conservation Voters' 2019-2022 Environmental Roadmap and PFAS Action Agenda Policy Priorities, National Wildlife Federation's Top Priorities for PFAS in Fish and Wildlife in Michigan, Ecology Center's PFAS policy priorities, National PFAS Contamination Coalition's Action Agenda, and Wisconsin's PFAS Action Plan.

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