



GREAT LAKES ECOREGION NETWORK

RÉSEAU ÉCORÉGIONAL DES GRANDS LACS ET DU SAINT-LAURENT

GLEN PLANNING GUIDANCE

After completing our surveys, interviews, and several meetings of our planning teams in the first half of 2023, at its first annual meeting on June 22, 2023, twenty-eight GLEN members affirmed the following guidance for:

1. GLEN's unique role and core function within the larger Great Lakes-St. Lawrence environmental community, and
2. Criteria to guide internal decision-making about our specific structure and the focus of our work.

1. GLEN Potential Roles and Functions

GLEN will serve the Great Lakes as

- **A basin-wide advocate** for Great Lakes/St. Lawrence ecological health and resilience and **transformational policy**
- **An ecoregional community “think tank”** on long-term big-picture challenges and responsive strategies by
 - Convening leadership for strategy development
 - Developing policy analysis

- **Leveraging transboundary institutions (e.g., GLWQA and others)** to advance policy and practice that meets ecological and social goals in the region
- **A constituency builder** for basin-wide strategies and action by
 - Providing public resources and hosting events
 - Increasing citizen oversight of and leadership in transboundary boards and commissions
 - Elevating community issues, and amplifying community voices, including giving a greater voice to local organizations and individuals, and nature in order to build capacity for transformational change
 - Developing strategic partnerships and alliances with other organizations
- **A wisdom keeper for sharing knowledge**
 - Mentoring and generational knowledge transfer
 - Cultivating a living library and Great lakes-St. Lawrence knowledge-network

2. GLEN Strategic Criteria for Decision-making

Does the work

- Serve the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River basins?
- Embrace ecological health, integrity, and resiliency as an overarching goal and intended outcomes?
- Focus on levers that shift toward transformation (regionally and globally) as opposed to incremental actions to address symptoms?
- Respect Indigenous rights, knowledge, and approaches, and develop partnerships with indigenous peoples on shared priorities?
- Adopt values of shared responsibility, respect and celebration of the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence?
- Lead with the ecological (including human) strategic goals/actions; follow with the appropriate institutional actions?
- Acknowledge capacity constraints (not enough \$ to address everything); can this leverage existing or available resources?

- Enhance relationship-building by
 - Being responsive to the needs of disadvantaged and under-represented people and creating opportunities for expanded representation?
 - Embracing justice, equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging across our strategies?
 - Engaging community groups where there is alignment and mutual interest?
 - Respecting the unique work and challenges of allied organizations, and developing partnerships as appropriate?
 - Welcoming, sharing, and learning from youth?
 - Listening and learning; collaborating and catalyzing?