



Michigan Department of Environmental Quality News Release

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Grants available to develop technology to prevent harmful algal blooms

The DEQ is offering \$250,000 in grants to organizations interested in developing technology to assist in the continuing fight against harmful algal blooms.

The grant is part of the DEQ's initiative to better understand and prevent harmful algal blooms in the Western Lake Erie Basin and other bodies of water. To help prevent blooms and the cyanotoxins they sometimes produce, Michigan entered a collaborative agreement with Ohio and Ontario last year to reduce phosphorus inputs to the Western Lake Erie Basin by 40 percent by 2025. In addition to phosphorus reductions, further research into the causes of harmful algal blooms and the development of technology to prevent them are critical to improving lake health.

The DEQ will prioritize projects that use remote sensing data to assess the presence of cyanotoxins, enhance understanding of the triggers behind cyanotoxin production, develop better cyanotoxin sampling methods, and improve rapid screening methods for cyanotoxins.

Local units of government, academic institutions, and nonprofit entities are eligible for funding. Proposals are due June 17, 2016.

For more information, read the request for proposals

at <http://www.michigan.gov/waterquality> or contact Gary Kohlhepp, Water Resources Division, DEQ, at 517-284-5540 or kohlheppg@michigan.gov.