

GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

PROTECTING OUR WATER, ENVIRONMENT, AND CLIMATE



Governor Whitmer is committed to defending our Great Lakes, mitigating the impacts of climate change on our communities, and creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs in industries of the future. She understands that the health of our economy is inextricably linked to the health of our people and our planet. In just 2 and a half years, she has invested more resources into water infrastructure than the previous 5 years combined. These investments support good-paying jobs and ensure every parent can give their kid a glass of drinking water and know that it's safe. She also launched the MI Healthy Climate Plan to move all sectors of our economy to carbon neutral by 2050 and ensure marginalized communities impacted by climate change will benefit from our energy transition. The Governor has made critical investments in our parks, trails, and public lands to create jobs, boost surrounding economies, and ensure that all families can enjoy "Pure Michigan."

PROTECTING OUR WATERS

- Protected the strongest [Lead and Copper Rule](#) for drinking water supplies in the country.
- Established [health-based drinking water standards for Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances \(PFAS\)](#) chemicals in our drinking water supplies.
- Partnered with Attorney General Nessel to [hold PFAS polluters accountable](#) for their contamination.
- Revoked and terminated the easement that allowed [Enbridge Energy](#) to run their dual oil pipelines through the Straits of Mackinac, while securing the state's energy needs.
- [Deployed funds](#) for a critical pinch point to keep dangerous, invasive carp out of the Great Lakes.



"In Michigan, our waters literally define us. We're surrounded by the extraordinary Great Lakes, home to 21% of the world's fresh surface water, support millions of jobs, and provide drinking water and recreation opportunities to tens of millions of families. I will always protect our waters—source to tap—for generations to come."

- Governor Gretchen Whitmer

ENSURING TRANSPARENCY

- Created the [Office of the Clean Water Public Advocate](#) and the [Office of the Environmental Justice Public Advocate](#) to elevate the concerns of residents and investigate complaints related to drinking water and environmental justice.
- Worked with Attorney General Nessel to achieve the largest [settlement](#) in Michigan's history for Flint's children and families, totaling \$600M. The settlement was for the civil lawsuits brought against the State of Michigan by Flint residents after the water supply for the City of Flint was switched to the Flint River on April 25, 2014.

ENSURING ACCESS TO CLEAN DRINKING WATER DURING COVID-19

- Took strong steps to ensure thousands of working families in Michigan had access to clean water for hand washing and sanitation by [signing executive orders](#) and the [Water Shut Off Protection Act](#) that required the reconnection of water service where it had been previously shut off due to inability to pay.
- Launched the Water Utility Assistance Program, the largest investment in water assistance in Michigan history.

INVESTING IN WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC SPACES

- Launched [MI Clean Water](#), a \$500 million drinking and wastewater infrastructure plan supporting [7,500 good-paying jobs](#) to address high water rates, lead-laden water service lines, toxic contaminants like PFAS, sewers that can't meet demand, and failing septic systems.
- Proposed [Filter First](#), a \$55M investment in K-12 schools to ensure that children and school faculty and staff have access to safe drinking water.
- Proposed [investing](#) \$400M to revitalize state and community parks, trails, and recreation facilities. This [investment](#) will help support businesses, local economies, and help Michigan become a more attractive destination for tourism.

MAKING MICHIGAN CARBON NEUTRAL BY 2050

- Committed Michigan to the [Paris Climate Agreement](#) and joined the U.S. Climate Alliance.
- Launched the [MI Healthy Climate Plan](#), a plan to move all sectors of our economy to carbon neutral by 2050 and ensures marginalized communities impacted by climate change will benefit from our energy transition.
- Deployed solar panels on state-owned lands and buildings and committed to powering state government with [100% renewable energy by 2025](#).