



Frequently Asked Questions about the Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Protection Alliance (FOLLOWPA)

A. What is FOLLOWPA?

The Finger Lakes - Lake Ontario Watershed Alliance (FOLLOWPA) is a membership of 25 counties, represented by County Planning Departments, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, County Health Departments and Water Quality Management Agencies within the Finger Lakes and Lake Ontario drainage basin.

B. How is FOLLOWPA funded?

Since 1997, FOLLOWPA has received an annual appropriation from the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF) totaling more than \$29 million. FOLLOWPA has also leveraged over \$25 million in additional funds (competitive grants, landowner contributions, in-kind services, etc) to make the state appropriation more effective.

C. Is it true that 95% of FOLLOWPA's State appropriation goes towards project implementation?

Yes, FOLLOWPA is a very efficient program with extremely low overhead and administrative costs.

D. Does FOLLOWPA receive any Federal funding?

FOLLOWPA has secured competitive grants from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative for agricultural best management practices (\$998,749 award) and from the Great Lakes Commission for soil stabilization projects (\$207,790 and \$199,979 awards). FOLLOWPA has also administered several consecutive years of Aquatic Nuisance Species Management Plan Implementation Grants, on behalf of New York State (over \$9.0 million).

E. What types of programs does FOLLOWPA implement?

FOLLOWPA programs are diverse and incorporate watershed management and planning, agricultural best management practices, drinking water supply monitoring and protection, erosion and stormwater control, invasive species management and eradication, habitat restoration, septic system inspections, and public education and involvement.

F. What is the secret to FOLLOWPA's success across nearly two-thirds of New York State?

FOLLOWPA has the unique ability to cross-cut political and jurisdictional boundaries in order to protect New York's water resources. We have developed extensive relationships with over 200 local, state and federal agencies and organizations. FOLLOWPA always searches for opportunities to share information and combine resources to make our programs more effective and efficient.

G. Can FOLLOWPA help property owners become better stewards of the land?

Absolutely! Many counties have cost share programs in place, especially for the implementation of agricultural best management practices. FOLLOWPA can also provide property owners with educational materials and technical assistance.

H. FOLLOWPA is a valuable program. How can I get involved?

Call our office at (315) 592-9663, visit FOLLOWPA's website at www.followpa.org to contact your local FOLLOWPA representative, or find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/fingerlakes-lakeontariowatershedprotectionalliance.