

Policy Options to Reduce Agricultural Nutrient & Sediment Runoff To Our Lakes

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

Establish an agriculture producers' advisory group to help shape our water quality policies including review of liquid manure spreading ordinance and improvements to solid manure application practices ^{A5}

Survey farmers in the lake Mendota watershed to see how farming practices have changed since 1996, and identify changing needs and opportunities to reduce nutrient loading. This is currently underway. (grant funded) ^{A6B}

Stay abreast of science developments and adjust our strategy for protecting our lakes accordingly. ^{A17a}

Maintain existing, and establish additional stream monitoring to measure nutrients and sediments going into our lakes. ^{A17b}

AGRICULTURAL RUNOFF INFORMATION & EDUCATION

Inform and educate the agricultural community and the general public about sediment and nutrient loading to the lakes from ag sources and what can be done about it. Build support for cleanup actions. ^{A5b}

ALTERNATIVE MARKETS OR ALTERNATIVE FUNDING SOURCES

Identify farm-specific opportunities for reducing P flowing into our lakes to take advantage of pollution trading opportunities. ^{A24,46}

Identify or hire an aggregator who would buy switch grass or other biofuels from Yahara basin farmers and sell it to the University Charter Street power plant. Provide a cost incentive to Yahara basin farmers growing biofuels. ^{A26}

Develop a conservation standard to pay farmers for growing harvestable perennial crops on stream-edge buffer strips and other land with high runoff to lakes. This would reduce soil P level. Crop could be used as food for livestock, biofuel, landscaping mulch, animal bedding, etc. ^{A25}

RESTORATION AND STABILIZATION

Identify, purchase and restore critical wetlands in the Yahara lakes watershed, then harvest plants from those wetlands to "mine down" soil P levels. ^{A18,41}

Stabilize rural waterway banks. ^{A43}

Policy Options to Clean Up Our Beaches and Reduce Nutrients & Sediment Flowing Into Our Lakes

Establish a successor organization to the Yahara Lakes Legacy Partnership. ^{G66}