

1 increase understanding of the scale of microplastics and risks of
2 microplastics on human health, the health of the Michigan Great
3 Lakes, and the critical drinking water supply and identify proposed
4 solutions to address the impacts of microplastic materials, to the
5 extent feasible.

6 (2) The department may enter into 1 or more contracts with
7 research institutions in this state, including those associated
8 with Grand Valley State University, Michigan State University, the
9 University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and other academic
10 and research institutions that have demonstrated expertise relating
11 to the effects of microplastic materials on the Michigan Great
12 Lakes, for research services that will contribute directly to the
13 development of the statewide microplastics research and monitoring
14 plan.

15 (3) The statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan
16 must include, but is not limited to, all of the following:

17 (a) Strategies for developing a comprehensive plan to identify
18 and evaluate the ecological, health, and economic impacts
19 associated with microplastics in the Michigan Great Lakes.

20 (b) Methods for sampling, detecting, and characterizing
21 microplastics that are consistent with recognized standards from
22 scientific, peer-reviewed research or relevant agencies, without
23 the involvement of private corporations, including, but not limited
24 to, any of the following:

25 (i) The International Joint Commission.

26 (ii) The United States Environmental Protection Agency.

27 (iii) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

28 (iv) ASTM International.

29 (c) A list of the baseline concentrations of microplastics in

1 the Michigan Great Lakes that includes, but is not limited to, all
2 of the following information:

3 (i) An assessment of the associated environmental and human
4 health impacts.

5 (ii) Solutions this state can immediately implement as
6 scientific knowledge of microplastics continues to develop.

7 (iii) Factors that should be considered, such as microplastic
8 particle age, size, shape, type, and location.

9 (d) Research actions that are in alignment with best practices
10 and what is being done or has been done by other Great Lakes states
11 and Canada.

12 (e) An investigation into the sources of microplastics and the
13 significance of pathways related to environmental and human health
14 impacts of microplastics. An investigation under this subdivision
15 must include the development of a long-term research plan with
16 annual updates available to the public to establish a baseline of
17 existing data and identify feasible study approaches for
18 understanding microplastics, and an ongoing strategy for reducing
19 the microplastics in the Michigan Great Lakes.

20 (f) A risk assessment framework for microplastics consistent
21 with best available science and research, and based on the best
22 available information on exposure of microplastics to organisms,
23 including humans, through pathways that impact the Michigan Great
24 Lakes.

25 (g) Research on approaches to reduce the introduction of
26 microplastics into the Michigan Great Lakes from significant
27 pathways and sources, with an emphasis on the sizes, shapes, and
28 types of microplastics that are associated with significant
29 environmental and human health impacts, as research and technology

1 capabilities and resources allow.

2 (h) Recommendations for policy changes, including statutory
3 changes, or additional research that may be needed.

4 (i) Recommendations for solutions for near-term action to
5 control microplastic introduction into the Michigan Great Lakes,
6 such as source elimination, pathway intervention, and public
7 education and outreach.

8 (j) A timeline to implement the statewide microplastics plan
9 and reduce the impacts of microplastics on the Michigan Great
10 Lakes.

11 (k) A list of potential barriers to implementation that
12 includes estimated costs and potential funding sources.

13 (4) To develop and implement the statewide microplastics
14 research and monitoring plan, the department may utilize existing
15 information and leverage ongoing federal efforts and efforts of
16 this state and other states, where possible.

17 (5) Not later than July 1, 2026, the department shall submit
18 the statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan to the
19 legislature. Not later than January 30, 2029, the department shall
20 submit a report to the legislature regarding the implementation of
21 the statewide microplastics research and monitoring plan.

22 (6) To the extent that funds are available from bonds and
23 other sources, including federal funds, not later than July 1,
24 2028, the department shall adopt and implement the statewide
25 microplastics research and monitoring plan.

26 (7) As used in this section:

27 (a) "Department" means the department of environment, Great
28 Lakes, and energy.

29 (b) "International Joint Commission" means a binational

1 organization established by the governments of the United States
2 and Canada under the Boundary Waters Treaty of 1909, and whose
3 responsibilities were expanded under the Great Lakes Water Quality
4 Agreement of 1972.

5 (c) "Microplastics" means a solid polymeric material, to which
6 chemical additives or other substances may have been added, that
7 has at least 3 dimensions, and is less than 5 millimeters in size.
8 Microplastics does not include polymers that are derived in nature
9 and are not chemically modified.