

Pledge and Join!

Yes, I/we agree to take the Lake Protection Pledge!

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Yes, you may use my/our name(s) in LCC's Lake Protection Pledge promotional materials.

Yes, add me/us to your Citizen Activist List.

Yes, I'd/we'd like to become a Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) member! By joining you'll help safeguard the lake for this and future generations. *Join for \$45 to receive the annual Lake Champlain Paddlers' Trail Guidebook or join for \$55 or more and receive the guidebook and Lake Champlain: A Natural History.*

- General (\$45-\$99) Friend (\$100-\$249)
 Leader (\$250-\$499) Patron (\$500-\$999)
 Ambassador (\$1,000+) Other

\$_____ Total Membership Amount

Enclosed is a check to the Lake Champlain Committee

Please charge my: VISA MasterCard AE

Card Number Sec. Code & Exp. Date

Cardholder's Signature

- DON'T send me/us any books
 Email me/us LCC's E-newsletter for updates on lake issues and LCC's work.
 Keep my giving anonymous.
 Enclosed is a Matching Gift form from my employer.

Help the Lake Take the Pledge

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The Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) is a membership-supported, bi-state non-profit organization working since 1963 to protect Lake Champlain's water quality and recreational access through science-based advocacy, education and collaborative action. Please join us in the work for clean water!



The Lake Protection Pledge[©]

We can create a cleaner lake. Currently Lake Champlain has too many algae blooms, too many closed beaches and too many warnings about toxins in fish. Some of the pollutants that enter the lake come from our own homes and driveways. Taking the simple actions below can prevent nutrients, sediment and toxins from getting into the water from your household. Pledge to help the lake, then send the form on the back to the Lake Champlain Committee (LCC) – the membership-supported, bi-state non-profit organization that has worked to protect and improve lake health since 1963. **I/We Pledge To:**

Around the Home

- Dispose of pharmaceuticals at Drug Take Back days; never flush medicines down a toilet.
- Position gutters to drain onto grass, soil or into a rain barrel. This lets the water filter into the ground rather than flowing directly to streams.
- Clean up pet waste at home and when walking the dog. Dog and cat wastes contain high levels of bacteria harmful to people and the lake. Deposit pet poop in toilets or garbage cans.
- Use permeable pavement for driveways and walkways. They allow rainwater and snowmelt and the pollution they carry to drain into the ground rather than run off untreated into waterways.
- Never dump toxic materials down stormdrains, garage drains, or on the ground. Waste dumped in stormdrains or on the ground is not treated before it enters waterways.
- Keep stormdrains and ditches clear of debris. Debris prevents proper drainage and causes flooding.
- Conserve water to reduce loads to wastewater treatment plants, save energy and costs. Fix leaks, add faucet aerators, and replace showerheads and toilets with low-flow models when upgrading. Choose EPA WaterSense-labeled fixtures for greater efficiency and performance.
- Use non-phosphate dishwasher detergents; it's the law. *Check labels - excess phosphorus leads to algae blooms.*
- Have your septic tank inspected and pumped regularly. Without regular checks and pumping, septic systems can fail, causing severe water quality problems and costly repairs.

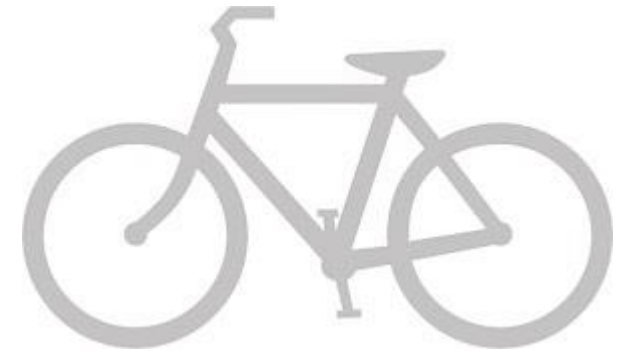
Around the Yard

- Get a soil test and follow its recommendations for fertilizer use. Most lawns don't need fertilizer, and whatever excess is applied ends up in the water, feeding algae growth.
- Use compost and mulch to improve soil health. These products release their nutrients slowly, providing long-term feed for your lawn and garden.
- Landscape with native groundcover and shrubs instead of lawn. Plants naturally adapted to local conditions require less maintenance and fertilizer.
- Choose drought-tolerant and pest-resistant plants. This minimizes the need for pesticides and excess watering.
- Avoid using pesticides and herbicides. They kill beneficial organisms as well as bothersome ones. When it rains, they wash into stormdrains and streams. Non-toxic insecticidal soaps, dormant oil sprays and "helpful insects" such as ladybugs can keep pests at bay just as well.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn. Grass clippings and other organic matter provide natural slow-release fertilizer and improve the lawn's ability to hold water.
- Maintain a vegetated buffer along the stream, river or lake if you live along a shoreline. Buffer strips shade the stream, filter runoff, stabilize streambanks, prevent erosion and provide habitat for animals.
- Water in the early morning to prevent losing water to evaporation during mid-day. Water slowly and deeply to avoid surface runoff, inspect hoses for leaks and direct overhead sprinklers toward vegetation and away from the street or driveway.
- Avoid over-watering. *Excess water runs off the lawn into the stormdrain system.*

- Install rain barrels to collect water from rooftops to water your lawn and garden. An inch of rain falling on a 1,000 square foot roof will contribute about 600 gallons of water.
- Re-seed thin areas in the lawn to prevent erosion and keep soil from running off into waterways.

Around the Garage and Town

- Wash the car at a commercial car wash where the water is collected and recycled. If you wash at home clean vehicles on lawn instead of pavement. This minimizes dirt and detergents entering streams through the stormdrain system. If washing at home, use environmentally-friendly soap products and shut the hose off between rinses.
- Maintain the car with regular tune-ups and check for leaks. Leaking fluids end up on parking lots and are washed into stormdrains and waterways during the next rain.
- Dispose of oil and antifreeze properly. Keep it out of stormdrains.
- Reduce automobile trips. Take a bus, ride a bike, walk or carpool whenever possible. The average car emits about 900 pounds of pollution into the air each year and some of this ends up in the lake.



Thanks for doing your part! If you have additional suggestions, please send them our way.