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For more information contact:

Julie O'Leary, Freshwater Future, (231) 838-9934
Julie@freshwaterfuture.org

Lara Hansen, EcoAdapt, (206) 201-3834
lara@ecoadapt.org

Great Lakes Climate Adaptation Toolkit Now Available for Community Use

Great Lakes communities have a new resource to help them respond to the effects of climate change, thanks to Freshwater Future and EcoAdapt, who have partnered to develop the Great Lakes Climate Change Adaptation Toolkit, with funding support from the Kresge Foundation.

The toolkit includes:

- A primer on climate change and adaptation;
- Four case studies on how community groups are incorporating climate change into their work;
- Communications guidance;
- Fact sheets on specific Great Lakes climate impacts;
- Approaches to addressing climate change with community leaders; and
- A guide to assist with vulnerability assessments.

Freshwater Future Executive Director Jill Ryan said "The Great Lakes region is already seeing a number of impacts from climate change, including warmer air and water temperatures, less ice cover, changes in snowfall and rainfall, and extreme storm events like we experienced in many areas of the region this past summer. The toolkit provides a resource to help community groups develop a climate informed perspective on their own work and some approaches to help them bring that knowledge to issues their towns and cities may be addressing."

"Climate change is everybody's problem," said Lara Hansen, Executive Director of EcoAdapt. "By putting tools into the hands of groups working on a wide range of issues, we can engage many more people in preparing our communities to meet the challenges of climate change."

The toolkit is one component of Freshwater Future's Great Lakes Community Climate Program, which includes workshops to train community groups how to consider climate change impacts in their work and a grants program to assist with implementation of on-the-ground projects.

The toolkit is available as a free download from both Freshwater Future and EcoAdapt's websites at:

<http://www.freshwaterfuture.org/resources/climate/climate-adaptation-toolkit.html> or
<http://ecoadapt.org/programs/awareness-to-action/freshwater-future-great-lakes-toolkit>.

A limited number of free hard copies are also available by contacting Freshwater Future at (231) 348-8200.

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Freshwater Future is a bi-national non-profit organization working to ensure the healthy future of the Great Lakes region. For more information, go to www.freshwaterfuture.org

EcoAdapt is a national organization helping communities adapt to climate change. For more information, go to www.ecoadapt.org