

Natural Resources Position - League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area

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The League of Women Voters Grand Traverse Area (LWVGTA) supports preserving, protecting, and enhancing environmental quality through evaluation of local and regional policies and programs. LWVGTA will review and comment, when appropriate, on projects and activities in the Grand Traverse Area.

LWVGTA supports:

Water Resources: Protection of Great Lakes, inland lakes, streams, rivers, and wetlands through programs and policies that reflect the interrelationships of water quality, water quantity, both ground and surface water; and that address the potential depletion or pollution of water supplies.

Energy Solutions: Environmental policies and programs that emphasize energy conservation and efficiency, and encourage the use of renewable resources.

Waste Management: Policies that promote --

- Reducing, reusing, and recycling of waste streams
- Environmentally sound disposal methods that protect air, health, water, and land resources.

Land Use: Promote managing land as a finite resource through comprehensive long-range planning, including policies and programs (such as sustainable agriculture), which will improve air and water quality by proper use of land and water resources.

Air Quality: Policies and programs that monitor, regulate, and reduce air pollution from vehicular and stationary sources.

LWVGTA believes local governments should:

- Promote environmentally sound practices and institute ordinances to enforce them.
- Provide greater transparency in natural resource decision making by:
 - 1.) effective noticing,
 - 2.) use of open meetings, workshops, and community outreach,
 - 3.) extensive use of communications technologies.