



Presented by Cleveland Water Alliance and the Gaspé Beaubien Foundation, Aquahacking 2017 puts environmental and technological innovation to work for water through a Data Competition and Accelerator Program that ranges across the three basins of Lake Erie. This hack-marathon concludes with a two-day Water Innovation Summit in Cleveland. Aquahacking leverages the public's interest in apps, hacking, open data, and new technology to elevate the value of clean water and improve understanding of its importance to the economic vitality of the Great Lakes region. It is an opportunity to drive innovation in the water technology sector and engage younger people pursuing technical careers in the "Blue Economy." The Cleveland Water Alliance and Gaspé Beaubien Foundation will manage and coordinate the program in collaboration with IBM, AT&T, and DigitalC as well as local champions and funders from each of Lake Erie's major metropolitan areas.

## 1. Data Competition and Accelerator Program

### **Feb-April 2017: Key Cities across the Lake Erie Watershed**

The foundation for the Data Competition will be laid in the fall of 2016 with a series of information sessions aimed at creating teams of designers, coders, water experts, IT professionals, policy experts, and other creative minds. Once formed, these teams will participate in a two-month long innovation accelerator and series of bi-weekly hackathons in 2017, with a semi-final in April of 2017 and final competition on May 2-3. The Data Competition will mobilize these teams, in concert with large data and infrastructure partners, to develop technological solutions that contribute to solving challenges surrounding Lake Erie and its supporting watershed.

## 2. Water Innovation Summit

### **May 2-3, 2017: Cleveland, OH**

The series of hacking events will lead up to a two-day Water Innovation Summit featuring political leaders, expert panelists, keynote speakers, and interactive workshops that aim to drive collaborative action and the development of common strategies to address the value of water to the Great Lakes basin. The emphases and target for the Summit is on data, water, and infrastructure with expected international attendance of more than 450 decision makers, corporations, elected officials, and government employees from EDA, SBA, Commerce, and EPA's office of innovation. It is here that the creators of promising solutions in the Data Competition will be awarded cash (totaling over \$100k) and supporting acceleration and commercializing services through CWA, IBM, and GLIDE Innovation Fund.

## 3. Program Outcomes

### **Quantitative Metrics to be collected**

- Community Engagement: Gather most salient water issues from Lake Erie communities
- Direct Engagement: Register over 200 professionals, 250 students (200 college, 50 high school)
- Solutions Provided: Quantify ecological and market impacts of over 20 functional products
- Media and Social Analytics: Reach over 50 million in national and social media
- Decision Makers Tour: Meet with representatives from more than 50 participating municipalities