

Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (PRC)

In 2016 the Thames River Phosphorus Reduction Collaborative (PRC) set out to develop a strategy to address toxic algal blooms in Lake Erie by reducing phosphorus in agricultural runoff that flows into the Thames River in Ontario. Five years later, the group is making progress in their research and implementation of trial technologies that eliminate phosphorus at the source.

Today, the team has six active demonstration sites where they are testing different phosphorus removal systems on agricultural land. Through experimentation, they are exploring the feasibility of each product in a real-world setting. The group has quickly learned that no system is perfect, and has had to overcome a number of challenges that come with deploying new technologies in the field. While they've had varying degrees of success, Waterloo Biofilter's Waterloo EC-P system shows great promise for use by municipalities. They will continue testing five technologies through the end of the season before wrapping up phase one in the first quarter of 2022, with results to follow.

The team hopes their research will provide farmers and municipalities with practical, affordable technologies to help reduce phosphorus in our waterways. The team also continues to encourage more investment in research that tackles phosphorus reduction at the source. This work is made possible through close collaboration with farmers, First Nations, municipalities, academic institutions, and environmental organizations.

For more information on the PRC's latest progress, visit their website at:
https://www.thamesriverprc.com/projectprogress