
WHAT WE'RE DOING LOCALLY – PA SWPTAP Partners

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http://www.depweb.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/watershed_management/10593

PA Rural Water Association (PRWA) Matt Genchur 800-653-PRWA
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Water Resources Education Network (WREN) a project of the
League of Women Voters of PA - CEF

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THIS GUIDE WAS MADE WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE SWC.

American Planning Association • American Water Works Association • Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies • Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators • Association of State and Territorial Health Officials • Association of State Drinking Water Administrators • Clean Water Fund • Environmental Finance Center Network • Farm Service Agency/U.S. Department of Agriculture • Ground Water Protection Council • National Ground Water Association • National Rural Water Association • North American Lake Management Society • River Network • Rural Community Assistance Partnership • The Groundwater Foundation • The Trust for Public Land • U.S. Environmental Protection Agency • U.S. Forest Service, Northeastern Area • U.S. Geological Survey • Water Systems Council



YOUR WATER. YOUR DECISION.

A quick guide for community leaders
committed to safe drinking water.

**Source Water Protection Technical
Assistance Program**





How You Govern can determine What You Drink

YOUR ROLE IN WATER POLICY

DEVELOPMENT PATTERNS

Planning land use at the watershed level protects sources of drinking water by conserving and protecting land where development would harm source water. Consider promoting development in already developed areas or in less environmentally sensitive areas.

CONSIDER:

More green space. Preserving open space helps protect drinking water sources, especially contiguous areas such as stream corridors, wetlands and recharge areas. Redevelopment and compact development can help preserve critical open space. DEP's Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program (SWPTAP) provides detailed GIS maps of key water supply protection areas.

More natural vegetation. Preserving natural vegetation - especially forest lands which cleanse drinking water on its way to the treatment plant. Enhance and protect streamside buffers which filter out pollution. Planting new trees and native plants reduces polluted runoff and enhances community quality of life and habitat.

Less pavement. Reduce impervious surfaces, such as pavement and concrete, through pervious paving materials, narrower streets, and parking decks, which decreases runoff and flooding and recharges the ground water supply. Development guidelines or incentives to promote green infrastructure can help.

Up-to-date local policies. Comprehensive plans, open space plans, low-impact development requirements, building permits and zoning tools especially in karst areas can encourage development that protects drinking water supplies.

WATER BUDGET

A community can help avoid over-use of valuable water resources and pollution by setting water, sewer, and septic utility rates to reflect the true costs of safe drinking water. Realistic pricing can consider lifecycle costs, environmental protection, and future investments to put safe and clean water policies on a more sustainable long term footing.

HERE'S HOW IT CAN HAPPEN:

Budget your water. Forecast the quantity and quality of drinking water you will be needing in a generation or more, and then budget the costs of protecting and treating the water sources you will be tapping and plan for how this limited resource might be protected and extended.

STEWARDSHIP

A local government's own actions can set the tone for source water protection.

HERE ARE STEPS SOME COMMUNITIES HAVE TAKEN:

Efficient infrastructure. Roads, water and sewer systems, and other public infrastructure can be designed and maintained to reduce runoff, pollution, and water loss. Many communities are installing green infrastructure before aging gray infrastructure to reduce stress on these vital systems and extend their life cycle.

Think regionally. Drinking water sources don't stop at political boundaries. Partnering with neighboring communities can help ensure your water sources stay clean and abundant. Collaborative source water protection efforts are underway across PA. Consider pooling efforts, especially for education to residents.

Expand monitoring. Checking stream and ground water quality can give communities meaningful information about the state of their drinking water supply. Many local watershed groups are capable partners in monitoring and assisting with public education.

Behavior change. Some communities offer services such as pharmaceutical collections, heating oil tank and and septic tank inspections and reach out to citizens to influence individual behaviors that collectively have an impact on water quality.

Be a role model. Local governments can demonstrate commitment to source water protection through their own actions, such as locating covered salt storage areas away from streams, recycling vehicle wash water, using alternative road treatments that reduce pollution in sensitive areas, and supporting community household hazardous waste collection.

How You Can Get Help

PA DEP . Contact Mark Stephens - North Central Region 570-327-3422

PRWA . Contact Matt Genchur 800-653-PRWA www.prwa.com

National Source Water Collaborative - <http://ProtectDrinkingWater.org>

Surf Your Watershed

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/surf/locate/index.cfm>

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