Where To Find Out More

Get information about protecting sources of drinking water and link to 18 influential organizations. Source Water Collaborative, **www.protectdrinkingwater.org**

A Planner's Guide: How today's land-use decisions can protect tomorrow's water supply. Source Water Collaborative, **www.protectdrinkingwater.org**

Resource for source water assessments and other protection tools. Environmental Protection Agency, **www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html**

Information on low impact development techniques and strategic planning, **www.lowimpactdevelopment.org**

Learn how to use GIS Tools to link land use decisions to water resource protection. A brief from National Association of Counties, **www.naco.org/techassistance** under "Water Quality"

Education for local officials on land use and natural resource protection. Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), **nemo.uconn.edu**

A New Source Water Protection Tool for Municipal Officials. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission, **www.neiwpcc.org/sourcewateroutreach/index.asp**

Sourcewater
COLLABORATIVE

American Planning Association - American Water Works Association - National Rural Water Association - Association of State Drinking Water Administrators - Environmental Finance Center Network - Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators National Association of Counties - Ground Water Protection Council - Trust for Public Land - River Network - Clean Water Fund - The Groundwater Foundation - Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies - National Ground Water Association - North American Lake Management Society - Farm Service Agency/U.S. Department of Agriculture - U.S. Geological Survey - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Your Water. Your Decision.

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

www.ProtectDrinkingWater.org

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Your water. **Your decision.**

How you govern can determine what you drink. Consider your community's efforts in these key areas: development patterns, pricing options, and stewardship. Then get the details you need for action from the websites below.

Development Patterns

You can plan how your community develops to avoid harming your water. This is sometimes called Low Impact Development. Here's how some communities do it:

More vegetation. Preserving and planting of trees, bushes, and plants, especially along rivers and lakes, help keep impurities out of the water.

More green space. Avoiding sprawl, clustering development, and conserving land reduces run-off and preserves the open space needed to recharge your water supply.

Less pavement. Reducing impervious surfaces, such as pavement and concrete, through development guidelines or incentives, can limit pollutants from running off into drinking water sources and provide more space for recharging groundwater.

New protection. Zoning permits, restrictions, and incentives can keep pollution out of water sources and recharge areas that feed into the drinking water supply.

Learn more at www.ProtectDrinkingWater.org/Growth

Budget & Pricing

A community can help avoid over-use and pollution by setting water, sewer, and septic utility rates to reflect the true costs of safe drinking water. Such full-cost pricing can consider lifecycle costs, environmental protection, and future investments to put safe and clean water policies in tune with free market forces. 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 allocated.

Recover your costs. When setting water, sewer, and septic utility rates, localities can think beyond the costs of pipes and chemical processes to include such expenses as securing future sources of tap water, system maintenence, and environmental protection.

Determine lifecycle costs. Consider the operation and maintenance costs of water and wastewater treatment (including the delivery and collection systems), not just the initial investment. This will help you gauge the true cost of development measures.

Learn more at www.ProtectDrinkingWater.org/Costs

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.

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.

Expand monitoring. Checking stream and ground water quality can give communities meaningful information about the state of their drinking water supply.

Behavior change. Some communities adjust services and reach out to citizens to influence individual behaviors that collectively have an impact on water services.

Be a role model. Local government policies, such as salting roads or washing trucks, can affect water pollution and waste. Engaging the public in activities such as hazardous waste collection days also can encourage citizen protection of the watershed.

Learn more at www.ProtectDrinkingWater.org/Costs

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