

EPA MOU Partners for Decentralized Wastewater Management Programs



Presentation Overview

- **What is an MOU?**
- **What is this MOU's purpose?**
- **Who is participating?**

What is an MOU?

A formal agreement between EPA and non-governmental organizations to work together to increase knowledge, awareness and quality of onsite wastewater treatment systems.

Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Cooperation in Decentralized Wastewater Management Programs

- **Implemented:** January 12, 2005
- **Duration:** Three years
- **Purpose:** To formalize the ongoing cooperative relationship between the EPA and Signatory Organizations in order to effectively address issues pertaining to decentralized wastewater treatment systems. The MOU is intended to facilitate cooperation, collaboration, consultation, coordination, and effective communication between the EPA and the Signatory Organizations.

Overall Goal

Develop the relationship between all aspects of the decentralized wastewater field!

Promote education

- Public – including homeowners!
- Industry

Expand knowledge level

- Create national standards

Provide a unified voice for the industry

- To the public, home building industry and federal, state and local governments

Partner Associations

- Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT)
- National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT)
- National Association of Wastewater Transporters (NAWT)
- National Environmental Health Association (NEHA)
- National Environmental Services Center (NESC)
- National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA)
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership, Inc. (RCAP)
- Water Environment Federation (WEF)

Sectors of Industry Covered

- Academia – professors, researchers, cooperative extension
- Contractors – installers, designers, service providers, operations & maintenance, pumpers
- Engineers
- Product Manufacturers
- Regulators – federal, state and local level
- Town Managers

Steering Committee

- A Steering Committee comprised of at least one representative of EPA and each signatory organization was formed to provide leadership and direction for the MOU. The Committee's activities include:
 - Developing an action plan
 - Developing annual reports to track and evaluate progress
 - Holding annual meetings and regular conference calls to maintain communications and keep the activities on track
 - COMMUNICATION!

Objectives

- Strengthen external partnerships
- Improve decentralized wastewater treatment system performance through improved practitioner competency, management practices, and technology transfer
- Improve accountability, control, and oversight through enhanced state, tribal and local program implementation
- Improve local decision-making through improved public awareness, education programs and information materials
- Support the principles outlined in the Voluntary Management Guidelines and Management Handbook for Decentralized Systems prepared by EPA's Office of Wastewater Management

Ways to Achieve Objectives

Development of:

- effective mechanisms for information exchange, program activities, regulations, and plans for engaging members in decentralized system activities
- public awareness efforts to promote improved system performance
- materials and then participation as presenters or trainers in conferences and training events held by EPA or other Signatory Organizations

Ways to Achieve Objectives (cont.)

Providing:

- feedback on upcoming products and materials
- technical assistance to members of the Signatory Organization

Conducting outreach activities

What This Means to You!

Development Tools

- Creation of training programs; Model Code Framework to assist in upgrading and modernizing regulations

Training Opportunities

- Inspectors, maintenance technicians, service providers, vacuum truck operators

Training Materials

- Development of a standard glossary, operations and maintenance training manual, system installer comprehensive training

Credentialing Programs

- Credentialing Programs for installers



Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Mission:

To conduct and advance research and development, education, and training for decentralized wastewater treatment and management

Who we are:

A cooperative partnership composed largely of academics, educators, researchers, as well as regulators, consultants, and industry representatives



Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

What we do:

- Work with our partners to promote sound use of decentralized wastewater treatment and management principles
- Conduct, encourage, and coordinate research and education focused on decentralized wastewater treatment and management
- Develop and share peer-reviewed training materials for academic curricula and practitioner training

For more information contact CIDWT at:

www.onsiteconsortium.org



Mission:

To strengthen the effectiveness of town and township government through the education of lawmakers and other federal officials about the unique nature of small town government operations and the need for policies that meet the special needs of suburban and non-metro communities.

Who We Are:

The National Association of Towns and Townships (NATaT) was formed more than 30 years ago to provide America's smaller communities - towns, townships, and other suburban and rural localities - a strong voice in Washington, D.C. NATaT champions pro-town and -township federal initiatives and promotes legislative and regulatory policies designed to strengthen smaller units of local government.



What We Do:

- Training education
- Information sharing
- Federal advocacy

For more information contact NATaT at:

www.natat.org
(202) 454-3954



Mission:

To unify the voice of the sanitary liquid waste management industry, while increasing its professionalism and public image through education of industry members and the public, and the development and national representation of individual, state, and regional chapters, allowing our industry to exchange ideas and concerns for the betterment of our members, the environment, and the general public.

Who We Are:

NAWT's members are the service providers to onsite wastewater treatment systems.



What We Do:

- Educate and certify the industry.
- Liaison the industry with regulators at the National level.

For more information contact NAWT at:

(800) 236-6298

www.nawt.org



Mission:

To advance the environmental health and protection profession for the purpose of providing a healthful environment for all.

Who We Are:

NEHA is a professional association for those involved in the Environmental Health arena.

What We Do:

- Professional education,
- Credentials, and
- Publications for all areas of environmental health, including onsite wastewater professionals.



The Certified Installer of Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems (CLOWTS) is NEHA's latest certification program designed to set standards and improve practices in the industry.

For more information contact:

Christl Pokorney

(303) 756-9090 x305

Cpokorney@neha.org

www.neha.org/onsite



National Environmental Services Center

NESC *Assistance. Solutions. Knowledge.*

Mission:

To transform data and information about small environmental system infrastructure into useful knowledge for small and rural communities serving individual users, operators, regulators, and other small system stakeholders

Who we are:

A ***combination*** of national programs that help small and rural communities:

NSFC since 1979

NDWC since 1991

NETCSC since 1991



National Environmental Services Center

NESC *Assistance. Solutions. Knowledge.*

What we do:

- Offer technical assistance via a toll-free hotline
- Develop and conduct training, research and demonstration projects
- Publish environmental magazines, newsletters and free or low-cost educational products
- Maintain national data repositories on: research, environmental manufacturing and consulting firms, funding resources, state and federal water regulations, demonstration projects

For more information contact NESC at:

(800) 624-8301

www.nesc.wvu.edu



National Onsite Wastewater
Recycling Association

P.O. BOX 1270 // EDGEWATER, MD 21037
P 800.966.6942 (410.798.1697) // F 410.798.5741

Mission:

To advance and grow the onsite/decentralized wastewater industry by promoting sustainable wastewater management on a watershed basis.

Who We Are:

NOWRA is the largest industry organization within the U.S. dedicated solely to educating and representing members within the onsite and decentralized industry. Membership consists of all sectors of the onsite/decentralized industry – academia, engineers/designers, installers, product manufacturers, regulators, service providers, etc.



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What We Do:

- Provide education and training programs to professionals and policy officials within the onsite industry.
- Provide a leadership role in state and federal legislative initiatives to protect water quality and public health.
- Develop guidance and standards for the industry, such as the Model Code Framework for use by states and local regulators.
- Maintain an online directory (SepticLocator) for use by members and the general public.

For more information contact NOWRA at:

(800) 966-2942

www.nowra.org



Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)

National network with over 160 field staff, including:

- certified treatment plant operators;
- professional engineers; and
- finance, management, and administrative specialists

Non-profit funded by three federal agencies:

- USEPA,
- USDA-Rural Development, and
- US Dept. of Health and Human Services



What RCAP Does:

- Onsite technical assistance for small communities on water & waste issues - technical, managerial, and financial
- Training for community leaders, utility boards, and staff
- Publication & dissemination of informational & instructional materials
- Financing assistance for infrastructure improvements
- Services provided free of charge

For more information contact RCAP at:

(800) 321-7227

www.rcap.org



WEF is a nonprofit technical and educational organization with members from varied disciplines who work toward the WEF vision of preservation and enhancement of the global water environment.

For more information contact WEF at:

www.wef.org

Web Sites for Partner Organizations

- CIDWT: www.onsiteconsortium.org/
- NATaT: www.natat.org
- NAWT: www.nawt.org
- NESCS: www.nesc.wvu.edu
- NEHA: www.neha.org
- NOWRA: www.nowra.org
- RCAP: www.rcap.org
- WEF: www.wef.org