



A NEW INFORMATION SHARING PLATFORM FOR SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

TIPS FOR FORMING A NEW SOURCE WATER PROTECTION COLLABORATIVE



IDENTIFY THE RIGHT PARTNERS

Identify partners that have a shared interest and who have the knowledge, skills, influence and/or the ability to act.

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/forming/get-started/identify-partners/>



IDENTIFY LEADERS AND FACILITATORS

Leaders help to maintain consistent vision, outline and ensure achievable goals, create agendas, delegate tasks, ensure action-oriented progress, and make strategic decisions. Facilitators help meetings run smoothly, resolve conflicts, keep the group organized and working toward goals, and keep your members on task.



DEFINE YOUR LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE

Having a clear and well defined structure will ensure operations run smoothly and helps create an efficient division of labor. Workgroups can help develop and implement protection activities, proposing actions to the larger group for input and endorsement.

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/forming/leaders-and-facilitators/designing-structure/>



DEFINE YOUR INTENTIONS

Jointly develop a statement of purpose, mission statement, or memorandum of understanding. Doing so can harness the initial energy of members and clearly define and formalize each member's commitment.

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/forming/key-materials/>

✔ **ESTABLISH AN EFFECTIVE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

Effective communication within the collaborative can help maintain and encourage member engagement. Choosing a specific platform or medium to help keep open lines of communication can make all the difference!

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/forming/tools/>

✔ **FIND FUNDING**

Finding an initial source of funding may be needed to get the collaborative up and running. Fortunately there is more funding out there than you may realize.

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/forming/funding/>

✔ **ENGAGE STAKEHOLDERS**

Engage stakeholders early. Consider a workshop, social media campaign, direct outreach, or community focus groups. By engaging stakeholders early on you can help increase awareness and understanding of issues and challenges, generate data, help identify priorities, increase support for collaborative programs, and enhance the likelihood of success.

View an example of stakeholder engagement:

http://www.prep.unh.edu/sfwc/workshop_sfwc.htm

View additional tips and resources:

<http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/how-to-collaborate-toolkit/advancing/engage-stakeholders/>

For more help initiating or enhancing partnerships to protect drinking water sources, visit the Source Water Collaborative "[How-to Collaborate](#)" Toolkit. This Toolkit is part of the SWC's ongoing efforts to help foster local, state and regional/watershed source water collaboratives.