

Where To Find Out More

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

A Planner's Guide: How today's land-use decisions can protect tomorrow's water supply. Source Water Collaborative, www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/guide-for-land-use-planners/

Resource for source water assessments and other protection tools. Source Water Collaborative, www.sourcewatercollaborative.org/assess-protect-drinking-water-sources/

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

GIS Tools for land use decisions:
<http://cdm16658.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/ref/collection/p267501ccp2/id/2013>

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

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

Assistance on planning for and financing land conservation. The Trust for Public Land, www.tpl.org/conservation-finance-handbook



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

Your Water. Your Decision.



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

www.SourceWaterCollaborative.org

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 SWC website.

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.

More natural vegetation. Preserving natural vegetation - especially within green space areas and along rivers and lakes - lowers pollution. Planting new trees and vegetation also reduces runoff.

Less pavement. Reducing impervious surfaces, such as pavement and concrete, through pervious paving materials, narrower streets, and parking decks, decreases runoff 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 can encourage development that protects drinking water supplies.



Budget & Pricing

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. Such full-cost 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.

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 and protecting future sources of tap water and system maintenance.

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

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 use.

Be a role model. Local governments can demonstrate commitment to source water protection through actions such as recycling vehicle wash water, using alternative road treatments that reduce pollution, and supporting community household hazardous waste collection.