Decentralized Wastewater Webinar Series

Clean Water Starts at Home
EPA Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership

EPA

Innovative Technologies and Approaches to Address Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure Challenges in the Alabama Black Belt

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 2021 · 1:00 - 3:00 P.M. ET

DESCRIPTION

The Black Belt of Central Alabama, known for the region's rich, dark topsoil, faces many factors that make traditional wastewater treatment challenging, including its rural landscape and heavy clay soils. Due to the long distance to municipal sewers, many households in underserved communities rely on septic systems; however, because of the impermeable soils, existing septic systems are largely ineffective and inadequate. In many cases, homes utilize "straight pipes" to carry their untreated waste from the home to a nearby location, such as a ditch or woods. As a result, residents may be exposed to raw sewage and, due to lack of resources, cannot afford to install a properly functioning system needed to correct the issue.

Federal and state governments, and academia work with communities to access funding mechanisms and develop unique solutions to these environmental justice and public health challenges. The solutions aim to prevent raw sewage and/or untreated wastewater from being discharged onto the ground or into local watersheds, thereby protecting the public and the environment.

This webinar will explore proposed solutions for the technological, regulatory, and management challenges of adequate decentralized wastewater management in the Black Belt and progress made on current funding initiatives. The intended audiences for this webinar include wastewater industry practitioners, engineers, public health agencies and practitioners, academia, government and municipalities, community and nonprofit organizations, and environmental justice advocates.

For additional information on the EPA Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership and past recorded webinars, please visit https://www.epa.gov/septic

PRESENTERS

Mark Elliott, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in Environmental Engineering at the University of Alabama who works at the intersection of water, wastewater, and public health in low-resource settings. Dr. Elliott's recent work focuses largely on wastewater management in rural America.

Kevin White, Ph.D., P.E., is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Civil Engineering at the University of South Alabama. He specializes in wastewater and stormwater treatment, with research focused on small community and onsite wastewater systems. Dr. White is currently working to test innovative wastewater strategies in the rural Alabama Black Belt.

Sherry Bradley, M.P.A., is the Director of the Bureau of Environmental Services at the Alabama Department of Public Health. Her bureau oversees the permitting, installation, maintenance, use, and product approval of onsite decentralized wastewater systems. Ms. Bradley was integral in the creation of the Lowndes County Unincorporated Wastewater Program in 2018, which has received federal funding for the installation of 100 onsite systems for single family dwellings in Lowndes County, Alabama.

MODERATORS

Zach Lowenstein, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Wastewater Management

Christopher Lindsay, International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials

Carl Thompson, National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. PLEASE ARRIVE EARLY.
https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7066392321442926604