

## Community Highlights

### **Benton County, Arkansas**

First highlighted during SepticSmart Week 2013, the Benton County Health Unit (BCHU) took action to protect public health and the water supply in Beaver Lake. According to BCHU, they “obtained a \$128,700 U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Community Development Block grant to repair or replace 24 septic systems at an average cost of \$5,256 per site.” The county has applied for additional funds and is currently seeking to pass [new ordinances](#). [Learn more](#) about the project.

The county also uses SepticSmart materials daily to help residents understand their systems. They provide SepticSmart [“Do’s and Don’ts”](#) to new permit holders, county visitors, for each septic system information request, and at public events.

### **Suffolk County, New York**

Suffolk County is upgrading its wastewater treatment infrastructure, including its septic systems, to address nitrogen pollution in area waterways. The county has been determining the scope of the issues and evaluating its options — both centralized and decentralized — for upgrading and replacing its wastewater infrastructure. Some areas are getting centralized treatment facilities and others are getting advanced septic systems. The county expects these new systems to have significant economic and environmental benefits. [Learn more](#) about the initiative.

### **Cape Cod, Massachusetts**

The [Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center \(MASSTC\)](#) on Cape Cod was established in the late 1990s to find and test decentralized systems capable of higher levels of treatment than conventional systems. According to its website, MASSTC was formed in response to “accelerated eutrophication and nuisance algae blooms” related to “nitrogen from septic systems.”

In April 2014, EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy issued the [Promoting Technology Innovation for Clean and Safe Water, Water Technology Innovation Blueprint—Version 2](#) to demonstrate the extent of risks to water sustainability, the “market opportunities” for innovation, examples of innovation pioneers, and actions to promote technology innovation. EPA recognized MASSTC in [Promoting Innovation for a Sustainable Water Future: A Progress Report](#) for aiding in the development, testing and piloting of new and innovative onsite technologies. [Learn more about MASSTC](#).

### **Willisville, Virginia**

Loudoun County, Virginia, is one of the wealthiest counties in America, yet in unincorporated Willisville, many families live without indoor plumbing and draw their water from shallow wells. Traditional septic systems were not effective because of soil conditions, and the more costly alternative systems were out of the price range of residents. [Learn more](#) about the joint venture of the county, the local water authority, and the community to provide Willisville with a wastewater infrastructure treatment solution.

### **Chesapeake Bay States**

As required by the [Strategy for Protecting and Restoring the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#), EPA released [A Model Program for Onsite Management in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#) in June 2013. On April 16, 2015, the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) to share data developed to document the performance of advanced onsite pretreatment units for nitrogen reduction. The purpose of this effort is to simplify and expedite the

approval processes for these technologies in each state while reducing costs to residents and manufacturers. Prior to this MOC, all states nationwide approved systems on an individual basis, and many do not take into account data collected by other state programs. [Learn more about this agreement and its benefits.](#)

### **Clean Water State Revolving Fund Case Studies**

Since 1988, the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) has been a major source for financing water infrastructure projects both large and small, providing more than \$105 billion in low-cost assistance to date. Here are a few case studies demonstrating how the CWSRF can be used to fund decentralized wastewater treatment projects.

#### **Pennsylvania and West Virginia Partner With State Housing Agencies on Septics**

The CWSRF programs in Pennsylvania and West Virginia are addressing nonpoint source water quality problems from failing decentralized systems through innovative partnerships with state housing agencies. According to EPA's CWSRF program, as of June 2014, the Pennsylvania and West Virginia programs have provided over \$16 million for decentralized wastewater projects. In 2013, EPA highlighted Pennsylvania and West Virginia's approach to using CWSRF for decentralized projects in [National Water Program Best Practices](#).

#### **Ohio: Home Sewage Treatment System Program**

Ohio funded more decentralized projects under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act than any other state, providing over \$3 million in funds in 2009 to decentralized wastewater projects as part of its Home Sewage Treatment System program. The purpose of this program is to make these improvements more affordable for low-income homeowners. Ohio has provided over \$12.7 million in CWSRF funding for decentralized wastewater projects. [Learn more](#) about how Ohio successfully uses CWSRF for decentralized projects.

#### **Minnesota: Improving Access to Funding**

Minnesota's CWSRF program is a model for how to provide better access to funding, particularly for decentralized wastewater projects. Based on county reports over the past several years, the state has 530,000 sub-surface sewage treatment systems. [Minnesota's financial assistance programs](#) include Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Grants, the Small Community Wastewater Grant and Loan Program, and Agriculture Best Management Practices Loan Program. Minnesota's CWSRF has devoted more than any other state — nearly \$73.5 million — to eligible sub-surface sewage treatment system projects.

#### **Iowa: Onsite Wastewater Assistance Program**

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "there are an estimated 100,000 rural homes still using outdated septic systems that do not adequately treat household sewage." Fortunately, Iowa's CWSRF is able to finance private decentralized systems under its [Onsite Wastewater Assistance Program](#). Iowa has provided over \$12 million in CWSRF funding for decentralized wastewater projects.

#### **Delaware: Septic Rehabilitation Loans for Individual Home Repairs**

The State Onsite Regulators Alliance says that Delaware's Septic Rehabilitation Loan Program "provides a source of low interest financing for repairing or replacing failing septic systems or cesspools with onsite wastewater disposal systems that will function in an environmentally sound and cost effective manner." Delaware has devoted nearly \$8 million of its CWSRF for decentralized wastewater projects. [Get more information regarding Delaware's Septic Rehabilitation Loan Program.](#)