

Where to find out more

General Resources

- Resources, tools, case studies and links to practitioners assembled by the Source Water Collaborative www.protectdrinkingwater.org
- Information on source water assessments, protection efforts, partnerships, outreach, and other tools to protect sources of drinking water www.epa.gov/safewater/protect.html

Smart Growth

- Information on “smart growth” policies, funding sources, networking opportunities, technical tools and resources www.epa.gov/smartgrowth
- Smart Growth Network, a coalition of developers, planners, government officials, community groups and other stakeholders www.smartgrowth.org

Tools for specific situations

- Training module that describes eight tools to protect and restore water resources in urbanized or developing areas www.epa.gov/watertrain/protection
- Information on watershed protection, training, and low impact development techniques. Center for Watershed Protection, www.cwp.org
Low Impact Development Center, www.lowimpactdevelopment.org
- Environmental management, planning, and federal and state regulatory information for local government officials, managers, and staff. Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN), www.lgean.org
- Education for local officials on land use and natural resource protection. Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO), www.nemo.uconn.edu
- Technical assistance includes County Water Quality Issue Brief: Using GIS Tools to Link Land Use Decisions to Water Resource Protection. National Association of Counties (NACo), www.naco.org/techassistance under “Water Quality”
- Details on funding opportunities, partnerships, model ordinances, outreach and education, coastal zone programs & other tools to manage runoff www.epa.gov/owow/nps
- Guidance on developing a Phase II stormwater program along with a list of best management practices to mitigate runoff pollution www.epa.gov/npdes/menuofbmps
- A Guidebook of Financial Tools. Environmental Finance Center Network, www.efcnetwork.org
- Assistance on planning for and financing land conservation, The Trust for Public Land www.tpl.org/tier2_kad.cfm?folder_id=3129

APA Planning Advisory Service Reports

- *A Guide to Wellhead Protection*, No. 457/458 (August 1995)
- *Nonpoint Source Pollution: A Handbook for Local Governments*, No. 476 (Dec. 1997)

Who we are

The SOURCE WATER COLLABORATIVE is a coalition of 18 national organizations united to protect the lakes, rivers and aquifers supplying America’s drinking water. Members include American Planning Association, American Water Works Association, National Rural Water Association, Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, Environmental Finance Center, Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators, National Association of Counties, Ground Water Protection Council, Trust for Public Land, River Network, Clean Water Fund, The Groundwater Foundation, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, National Ground Water Association, North American Lake Management Society, Farm Service Agency/U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Advice Worth Drinking

How today’s land-use decisions can protect
tomorrow’s water supply

A Planner’s Guide

Sourcewater
COLLABORATIVE



Putting drinking water into the planning process

Every day, land use decisions affect future drinking water supplies – either intentionally or inadvertently. To get control of the issue, you can integrate source water planning into your normal planning activities, from visioning to zoning, to provide sustainable sources of drinking water. To the right are some options localities have used to protect drinking water.

To get more information, go to ProtectDrinkingWater.org

Strategic point of intervention . . .

A sampling of options to protect your drinking water supply . . .

LONG RANGE VISIONING

Goal-setting exercises
(20-year + outlook)

- Include ground and surface water experts in the visioning exercise.
- Include Source Water Assessments and water budget data in any build-out or alternative scenario analysis.
- Link source water protection objectives to other long-range goals, such as land conservation, habitat protection, compact development, stormwater and watershed management, water/waste water utility planning, and nonpoint source pollution reduction.

PLAN MAKING

(a) Comprehensive (master or general) plans,
(b) Sub-area plans (neighborhood plans, corridor plans, downtown plans, etc.),
(c) Functional plans (stormwater plans, waste water management, water plans, open space plans, etc.)

- Include a critical and sensitive areas element with a strong source water component in the comprehensive plan (using up-to-date data about point and nonpoint threats)
- Include maps and narrative describing the physical properties of aquifer and well-head protection areas, (ground water contour, cones of depression, surface water contributors) as well as surface water resources important for current and future drinking water sources.
- Include land use elements in plans that protect drinking water sources by limiting threats to rivers, streams, lakes, wetlands and ground water.
- Develop stormwater management plans that keep pollutants out of drinking water sources.

REGULATIONS/INCENTIVES

Carrots and sticks to implement plans (zoning ordinances, subdivision regulations, urban area boundaries, transfer of development rights, other incentives)

- Adopt ordinances and regulations such as wellhead protection overlay zones, riparian buffers, stormwater management ordinances, underground fuel storage tank regulations, land-use controls in flood plains, and nitrate loading regulations.
- Encourage compact settlement patterns by allowing increased density and in-fill around existing urban areas; allowing or requiring cluster development; and adopting programs for transfer of development rights.
- Use non-regulatory tools to spur smart growth such as permit streamlining, technical assistance, and the use of public-private partnerships for implementing best stormwater management practices.

DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW

Review and approval of all aspects of the built environment being proposed (residential subdivisions, mixed use developments, commercial and industrial developments, transportation facilities, utilities, etc.)

- Require applicants for development projects to submit appropriate source water information on drinking water sources as part of their initial application submission.
- Refer submitted plans to source water experts as part of the plan review process.
- Require source water protection measures be incorporated into plans by private developers as a condition of approval; avoid bartering away good source water protection development practices in the development review process.
- Encourage Low Impact Development practices and techniques that minimize impervious surfaces and runoff, and encourage on-site recharge.

PUBLIC INVESTMENT

Capital projects undertaken by towns, cities, counties, states, and the federal government.

- Make sure that public investments in a capital improvements program adopted by a town, city, or county do not include measures that threaten source water supplies.
- Be sure that the design and location of public investments such as roads, transit, buildings, and other public structures and facilities are sensitive to source water protection issues.
- Pass bond issues to acquire fee and less-than-fee interest in conservation land and green infrastructure configured to protect source water resources.
- Establish priorities for land acquisition; coordinate with water suppliers, land trusts and others to protect source waters through land acquisition, stormwater retrofits, other restoration projects.