



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Department
of Health

Department
of State

Agriculture
and Markets

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM: PROTECTING YOUR DRINKING WATER

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Overview

Protecting drinking water is a high priority for New Yorkers. In response, New York State has launched the Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP2) to assist municipalities with proactively protecting their drinking water sources. The goal is to help municipalities develop and implement a drinking water source protection plan for their source(s) of drinking water.

DWSP2 is a four Agency initiative co-led by New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and Department of Health (DOH), in consultation with the Department of State (DOS) and Department of Agriculture and Markets (DAM). The State will assist municipalities with understanding the risks to their drinking water sources and what protection actions might be appropriate. As a result of this program, participating municipalities can use their newly developed drinking water source protection plan to start implementing protection measures.

The State has released a working draft that municipalities can use to develop their drinking water source protection plan, "[A Framework for Creating a Drinking Water Source Protection Program Plan](#)". See the DWSP2 Framework – Working Draft section of this fact sheet for details. In addition to the working draft, the State has staff available to assist municipalities with the development and implementation of their drinking water source protection plan.

How Will Drinking Water Source Protection Benefit Your Community?

The purpose of developing a long-term protection plan for source water(s) is to protect public health and safety, and the environment. Using a drinking water source protection plan, municipalities can make informed decisions to achieve source water protection.

- Protect public health by preventing pollutants from entering a drinking water supply.
- Avoid preventable drinking water treatment costs.
- Increase community confidence in their local public drinking water.
- Create long-lasting partnerships that support implementation.
- Utilize a broad array of existing funding sources to aid with project implementation costs.

DWSP2 Framework – Working Draft

The DWSP2 Framework – Working Draft is available to help municipalities develop their protection plans. This working draft includes an easy-to-follow summary touching on the key components of a protection plan, and a resource kit with more detailed information to help communities accomplish each component.

Phases and key components of a protection plan include:

1. **Stakeholder Group**
 - 1.1 Form a Stakeholder Group
 - 1.2 Establish Goals and Formulate a Vision

2. **Drinking Water Source Assessment**
 - 2.1 Develop an Overview of the Water System
 - 2.2 Prepare a Drinking Water Source Protection Map
 - 2.3 Create a Potential Contaminant Source Inventory
3. **Protection and Implementation Strategies**
 - 3.1 Identify Protection and Management Methods
 - 3.2 Develop an Implementation Timeline
4. **Progression and Maintenance**
 - 4.1 Designate a Plan Management Team

Opportunities for Assistance

There are a number of technical assistance providers available throughout the State to assist communities with developing and implementing their own unique, individual source water protection plan:

- **DOH Regional Staff** – DOH contracted with the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission (NEIWPCC) to hire staff in all four DOH regions to assist communities with developing and implementing source water protection plans.
- **State-hired Consultant** – In early 2019, the State solicited for communities to work with a state-hired consultant(s) to develop and implement their protection plan. The State is currently soliciting for the consultant(s) and will notify communities once the selections have been made. Technical assistance may be available through other avenues for communities that aren't selected to work with the consultant(s).
- **Regional Planning Boards** – Funding was made available to planning boards across the state through DEC's 604(b) grant program to work with communities to create and implement source water protection plans.
- **New York Rural Water Association (NYRWA)** – NYRWA's Farm Service Agency-funded Source Water Protection Technical Assistance Program provides technical assistance to rural and small communities with the development and implementation of source water protection plans.

Technical assistance providers will follow the DWSP2 Framework - Working Draft developed by the State and its partners. Municipalities should plan to designate local staff to work with the technical assistance provider. There will be no out of pocket costs to participating municipalities for developing their protection plan.

More Information/Resources

- [Learn more about DWSP2 \(https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html\)](https://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/115250.html)
- [Learn more about Drinking Water Source Protection \(https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/\)](https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/water/drinking/)
- [New York State Association of Regional Councils Contact Information \(http://www.nysarc.com/contact_.htm\)](http://www.nysarc.com/contact_.htm)
- [New York Rural Water Association Source Water Protection Program \(https://www.nyruralwater.org/technical-assistance/source-water-protection\)](https://www.nyruralwater.org/technical-assistance/source-water-protection)
- [Learn more about the Water Quality Improvement Project \(WQIP\) Program \(https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html\)](https://www.dec.ny.gov/pubs/4774.html)
- [Learn more about the Source Water Buffer Program \(https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/source-water-buffer-program\)](https://agriculture.ny.gov/soil-and-water/source-water-buffer-program)

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