MANAGING AND FINANCING SEPTIC SYSTEMS

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ORISE Participant

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
OUTLINE

- SepticSmart Week
- Water Finance Clearinghouse
- Septic Finance Learning Module
SEPTICSMART WEEK

National campaign to educate homeowners on proper septic system maintenance

EPA’s Decentralized Wastewater Program

www.epa.gov/septic
Do Your Part. Be SepticSmart!

- **Shield Your Field**: Divert rain and surface water away and avoid parking vehicles and planting trees on your drainfield.
- **Don’t Overload the Commode**: Don’t flush diapers, wipes or other items meant for a trash can down the toilet.
- **Think at the Sink**: Limit use of your garbage disposal and avoid pouring fats, grease, solids and harsh chemicals down the drain.
- **Don’t Strain Your Drain**: Use water efficiently and stagger use of water-based appliances, such as your washing machine or dishwasher.
- **Protect It and Inspect It**: A typical septic system should be serviced every one to three years by a septic service professional.
- **Pump Your Tank**: Ensure your septic tank is pumped at regular intervals as recommended by a professional.
- **Keep It Clean**: If you are on a well, test your drinking water regularly to ensure it remains clean and free of contamination.

EPA

[Diagram showing groundwater recharge and septic systems]
Using a Responsible Management Entity (RME) to Manage Tribal Onsite (Septic) Wastewater Treatment Systems

Many tribal communities use septic systems to treat wastewater for their homes and businesses. Even if a community has a centralized sewer system, there are often homes in portions of the community that are serviced by septic systems.

Proper management of septic systems is essential and provides significant benefits to residents and the community at large.

Given the rural nature of many tribal communities, septic systems are one of the more common ways to treat wastewater in tribal communities. Septic systems can provide a high level of public health and natural resource protection if properly planned, sited, designed, constructed, operated and maintained. More information about septic systems in tribal communities, including the design considerations of septic
Do your Part—Be SepticSmart!

A Homeowner’s Guide to Septic Systems for Tribal Communities
WATER FINANCE CLEARINGHOUSE

ONE STOP SHOP FOR ALL THINGS WATER FINANCE

EPA’s Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

www.epa.gov/wfc
Meeting the Needs of Key Stakeholders

The Water Finance Clearinghouse is an easily navigable web-based portal that helps communities locate information and resources that will assist them in making informed decisions for their drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure needs.
WATER FINANCE RESOURCES

Reports, websites, trainings, and other types of information about water infrastructure financing.

WATER FUNDING SOURCES

Current federal, state, local, private, or other sources of funding for water infrastructure projects.
Essential Resources and Information in the Clearinghouse

**RESOURCES**
- Reports
- Webinars
- Case Studies
- Videos
- Websites
- Trainings
- Guides
- Outreach
- Presentations
- Events
- Feasibility Studies
- Resource Lists
- Tools
- Other

**FUNDING SOURCES**
- **Federal funding** – grants and loan programs that support water infrastructure project development and construction
- **Regional funding** opportunities
- **State/Tribal funding** – grant and loan programs
- **Foundation** opportunities
- NGO
QUALITY OVER QUANTITY

FOCUS ON WATER FINANCE
All resources should have a strong emphasis on financing, funding, capacity development etc.

EASY TO LOCATE INFORMATION
Will NOT accept reports or guides that contain only a short section on funding.

FREE OF CHARGE
No resources in the Water Finance Clearinghouse should require users to pay for access.
www.epa.gov/wfc
Water Finance Clearinghouse

Funds Search: There are 162 funds that have ALL selected filters applied

- Tribes & Alaskan Native Villages

Program Name: Forestry on Indian Lands
Source: Bureau of Indian Affairs
Description: This U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs program is intended to maintain, protect, enhance, and develop Indian forest resources through the execution of forest management plans. Regional office information is available at www.doio.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html.
How To Apply: Contact your regional office; regional office information is available at www.doio.gov/bureau-indian-affairs.html.
Current Funding Level: Varies; awards range from approximately $100,000 to $1 million
Contact: U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs Office of Trust Services, Division of Research and Planning.
Funds Search Results: There are 5 funds that have ALL selected filters applied

- **Funding Sources**: Select from options like Agriculture, Animal Agriculture, Combined Sewer System, Drinking Water Systems, Green Infrastructure, Greywater, Private Drinking Water Wells, Private Septic Systems, Private Stormwater, Surface Water, Septic/Decentralized, Wastewater Utilities, ReUse.

- **Sectors**

- **Scope**

- **Eligible Uses**

- **Eligible Applicants**

Apply Filters

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Name</th>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>How To Apply</th>
<th>Current Funding Level</th>
<th>Contact</th>
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</thead>
</table>
Key Features:
- Drop-down filters at the top of the search results
- Information Displayed:
  - Clickable Funding Option
  - Source
  - Description
  - How to Apply
  - Current Funding Level
  - Contact Information
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Resource Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Resource Type</th>
<th>Year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Long-term Planning for Sustainable Water and Wastewater Infrastructure in</td>
<td>EPA</td>
<td>Report describing how the Spokane Tribe of Indians used EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program to further evaluate the tribe's water and wastewater needs, identify actions to improve the systems' capacity for new development, and ensure successful long-term operation of the infrastructure.</td>
<td>Case Study, Report</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Features:
- Drop-down filters at the top of the search results
- Information Displayed:
  - Clickable Resource Title
  - Author
  - Brief Description
  - Resource Type
  - Year
Users can apply multiple filters by clicking on the gray tabs & selecting filters

Can remove individual or all filters by clicking on the “X”
Functionality

Users can search within their search results. This will highlight your search word/s and narrow your search results. These searches can be removed by clicking on “X”.
Users can export their search results by clicking on the “Download” button.
Users can export their search results by clicking on the “Download” button.

Users can re-organize how information is displayed by clicking on the column headings.
Users can submit feedback and resource recommendations for consideration.
MAINTENANCE

2-Pronged Approach

EPA Staff Annually/Bi-annually

Clearinghouse Contributors

Desired Contributors: Individuals who represent entities that routinely publish or produce water finance-specific resources and/or those that manage water funding sources.

- Suggest edits to existing content in the Clearinghouse.
- Suggest additions of new resources and/or funding sources.
- Suggest removal of resources and/or funding sources.
You can become Contributor if you are interested in routinely editing or adding information to the Clearinghouse.

**Desired Contributors:** Individuals who represent entities that routinely publish or produce water finance-specific resources and/or those that manage water funding sources.
<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Revision Type</th>
<th>Source Type</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Grant Program Annual Reports</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>06/07/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clean Water Indian Set-Aside Program Guidance</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Resource</td>
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<td>06/07/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Funding Strategies for Decentralized Wastewater Systems</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>06/07/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Financing Options for Nontraditional Eligibilities in the Clean Water State Revolving Fund Programs</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>06/07/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal Housing Activities Loan Guarantee Program (Title VI)</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Fund</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>06/07/2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>Proposal NCRP Tribal Planning Grant</td>
<td>New Suggestion</td>
<td>Resource</td>
<td>Pending</td>
<td>06/07/2018</td>
</tr>
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6 Suggesting a Resource or Funding Source

Making a Suggestion

- Provide as much detail as you can
- Apply filters to make your entry searchable
- Option to set date for when entry is removed from Clearinghouse
- Option to schedule a reminder email to update your entry
Suggesting a Resource or Funding Source

Making a Suggestion

- Provide as much detail as you can
- Apply filters to make your entry searchable
- Option to set date for when entry is removed from Clearinghouse
- Option to schedule a reminder email to update your entry
Saving Drafts and Printing for Review

Save your work
- Information does not need to be entered in one sitting
- Print form for review
- Export your entries or search results
- Information is pre-filled to resume work and update an already-submitted entry.
Transferring Account

Designate an individual to manage your account

- Your work will not be lost
- WIRFC must approve transfer for security of your account
Contributors are Federal agencies, State organizations, foundations, NGOs, and other groups that suggest edits / deletions / additions to the Clearinghouse.

Suggestions for Clearinghouse Content made by Contributors, General Users are reviewed by and approved by EPA staff. EPA also adds new content.

Anyone who visits the site can create a General User account – this allows visitors to favorite or bookmark resources/funding sources and subscribe to Clearinghouse Updates.

The Water Finance Center tracks daily unique site visits and a diverse set of use data to better understand user needs and trends.
The Water Finance Center is developing step-by-step guides on specific water finance topics: Water loss financing, disaster recovery & resiliency financing, State Revolving Funds 101, financing decentralized systems, etc.

Incorporate data and analytics of water infrastructure investments made in the United States – through SRFs, other federal programs, and the market (muni bonds). May include water infrastructure needs data.

Soliciting recommendations and ideas for how to make the Clearinghouse even better for key stakeholders. What would you like to see?
The Water Finance Center is working in partnership with branches across OW to develop step-by-step interactive guides on specific water finance topics that will be housed in the Water Finance Clearinghouse:

- SRF 101
- WIFIA 101
- Public-Private-Partnerships
- Water loss financing
- Disaster recovery and resiliency financing for water and wastewater utilities
- Stormwater financing
- Financing municipal watershed partnerships with agriculture
- Financing decentralized wastewater systems

External expert stakeholders are being engaged to provide feedback and additional content before public release in 2018.
Financing Decentralized Septic Systems

Chapter 1: Septic System Basics

Chapter 2: Maintenance & Repair

Chapter 3: Financing Septic Systems
Septic System Basics

Septic System Terminology

Septic Systems: What They Are & How They Work

Septic System Design

Background information on septic systems for homeowners or managers of small cluster systems.
Vegetation other than turf should be removed around the drainfield and septic tank to prevent roots from growing into the system's pipes. Pesticides should not be used.

Property owners should not place heavy objects, including vehicles, on top of the drainfield.
TRIBAL FINANCE CASE STUDIES

Apache and Navajo Nations, Arizona
- $449,790
- 2009-2013
- 30 new septic systems
- O&M Training

The Band of Chippewa, Turtle Mountain, North Dakota
- $361,000
- 2009-2015
- 18 new septic systems
- O&M material

Navajo Nation, New Mexico
- $52,236
- 2007-2015
- 6 new septic systems
- Indian Health Services O&M training

Lac Viex Desert Chippewa Indian Community, Michigan
- $290,000
- 2015
- 16 septic systems
- Control panel for existing LIFT station
EPA Clean Water Indian Set-Aside (CWISA) Funding
CONTACT

Visit the Site
www.epa.gov/wfc
www.epa.gov/septic

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