

What is the procedure for developing a SWP plan?

Developing a SWP plan involves a seven-step process. The PWS Section offers an online detailed guidance document that describes the entire planning procedure. In addition, the PWS Section provides technical assistance for each step in the process.

- Step 1. Obtain and review your source water assessment report.
- Step 2. Form a local source water protection stakeholder team.
- Step 3. Conduct a potential contaminant source inventory.
- Step 4. Develop protection strategies.
- Step 5. Develop a contingency plan.
- Step 6. Develop a schedule for implementing and updating the SWP plan.
- Step 7. Submit the SWP plan to the PWS Section for approval.

How can I get started?

A simple phone call or e-mail to the program's staff can begin the process. We will discuss your specific situation, goals and expectations. If requested, a staff member can make an educational presentation to your local government officials, utilities or environmental groups. As previously stated, participation in the Source Water Protection Program is entirely voluntary.

How can I get more information?

If you have questions regarding the development of a local SWP plan, contact the PWS Section Source Water Protection Program Coordinator at (919) 715-2633 or by e-mail at swap@ncmail.net. Additionally, you can contact a source water protection specialist from NCRWA at (336) 731-6369. Information and resources can be found online at <http://swap.deh.enr.state.nc.us/swap>.

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SOURCE WATER Protection Program

How to create a local
Source Water Protection Plan



Source Water Protection Planning

In an effort to safeguard North Carolina's drinking water resources, the Public Water Supply (PWS) Section of the N.C. Division of Environmental Health is encouraging communities to implement a local source water protection (SWP) Plan. The PWS Section, through its Source Water Protection Program, has the tools to assist localities in their efforts to protect drinking water sources.

What is the Source Water Protection Program?

As an extension of the Source Water Assessment Program, North Carolina created the Source Water Protection Program.

One of the program's most important components involves the development of local source water protection plans. City government, water utilities or environmental groups typically initiate the planning process. This approach encourages stakeholders to pursue protection strategies that are specific and tailored to their community. Participation in the Source Water Protection Program is voluntary and does not include regulatory or compliance adherence.

Why develop a Source Water Protection Plan?

Protecting your drinking water source from contamination is the best way to ensure a safe, long-term supply. Installing equipment to remove contamination is expensive, and locating a new water supply source is often difficult or impossible.

- A SWP plan allows you to identify potential contamination sources that may threaten the viability of your water source.
- A SWP plan serves as a roadmap for systematic and proactive action.
- A SWP plan promotes a positive image and demonstrates your desire to protect public drinking water.

What will a SWP plan cost?

It is not expensive to create a SWP plan. The PWS Section staff can provide technical assistance at no cost to you. Also, through a special arrangement with North Carolina Rural Water Association (NCRWA), a source water protection specialist can be assigned to your case to handle the details involved with creating your plan. The specialist can write and submit the plan under your direction all of which is provided free of charge. Membership in the NCRWA is not required.

The greatest cost to develop a SWP plan is non-monetary. It requires time and a steady commitment to complete the process. It also requires creative input from local stakeholders who share the same commitment to protect their drinking water source.

Although developing a SWP plan is inexpensive, implementation costs can vary widely. These costs depend solely on the goals and timelines outlined in your SWP plan. For instance, a plan to purchase and conserve land surrounding an intake could be expensive while initiating a public education campaign may be relatively inexpensive. Typical funding sources to implement a SWP plan include grants, local government, utility fees and local business participation.

Are there any incentives available?

An approved SWP plan qualifies your utility for economic incentives. In both the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund and the State Clean Water Revolving Loan and Grant Program, an applicant can receive priority points that make water system infrastructure project applications more competitive. The PWS Section is actively engaging other North Carolina agencies to develop incentives and support for the Source Water Protection program. The North Carolina Clean Water Management Trust Fund, Agriculture Cost Share Program, Community Conservation Assistance Program and Environmental Quality Incentives Program support source water protection initiatives.

