**Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy Final Project**

Project: “Non-point Source Septic Mitigation Tool Box”

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Action plan for rural communities wanting to address failing septics

* Recognize the problem
* Educate yourself
* Talk to your neighbors
* Build consensus
* Form a committee of residents to research options.
* Use the Non-point Source Septic Mitigation Tool Box.
* Talk to County Officials, Co. Commissioners

Resources (Handouts):

1. Steps To Complete a Non-Point Source Community Wastewater Project
2. Funding Sources for Community Infrastructure Programs
3. “A Drop of Knowledge: Non-Operators Guide to Wastewater Systems”
4. “A Guide to Developing Water and Wastewater Infrastructure”
5. Non-Point Source database
6. Indiana Regional Wastewater Districts/ Conservation District Overview
7. Unsewered Community Survey
8. Indiana Regional Wastewater Districts/ Conservation District Overview
9. Formation of On-site Management Districts (Available on-line)
10. Interlocal Agreement Manual (Available on-line)

Helpful Links:

1. Indiana Regional Sewer District Association

<http://irsda.org/> or http://irsda.org/links.php

IRSDA is a terrific resource listing different State Agencies and Organizations dealing with waste water. The Indiana Regional Sewer District’s Association (IRSDA) was formed to help address the unique issues faced by regional sewer and water districts. Our mission is to be supportive and share information that is critical and focused on the role of regional districts in protecting the environment and public health while also supporting economic development and providing a public convenience.

1. Citizens Water, Septic Tank Elimination Program, -how to get on sewers, financing, steps to take to get to construction.

<http://citizenswater.com/Wastewater/STEP.aspx>

To address health hazards in our neighborhoods, the Septic Tank Elimination Program (STEP) was implemented to convert many neighborhoods on septic systems to the sanitary sewer system. STEP plans include bringing sewers to approximately 7,000 homes by 2013. This will address more than 25 percent of the 25,000 homes still on septic systems in Indianapolis. Neighborhoods with higher septic system failure rates are the priority of STEP.

1. Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

<http://www.iaswcd.org/>

1. “The High Price of Ignorance” Small Flows Quarterly, Summer 2005,

Vol. 6, No. 3, p27-30. <http://www.miamicountyhealth.net/EH/documents/OPProgram/Pubs/Ignorance_SFQ_s05.pdf>

Many Indiana communities think they have only two options for solving their wastewater problems: building sewers or doing nothing. The first option could mean soaring capital costs and user rates, while the second option could mean polluting the environment and risking public health. This article explores the demographics and needs of rural communities and the challenges they face in obtaining waste water treatment.

5. Small Community Wastewater Cluster Systems<http://www.extension.purdue.edu/extmedia/ID/ID-265.pdf>

*In areas served by municipal wastewater facilities, sewage is transported away from homes in large diameter gravity sewers to a central plant where it is treated and discharged into a waterway. Outside of these areas, most individual residences must rely on a septic tank and soil absorption field, or on-site system, to dispose of their wastewater. Cluster systems bridge the gap between these two systems in small communities where neither of the first two systems is feasible.*

### 6. [Purdue Residential Onsite Wastewater Disposal](https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=18&ved=0CFoQFjAHOAo&url=https%3A%2F%2Fengineering.purdue.edu%2F%7Efrankenb%2FNU-prowd%2Fcommunity.htm&ei=NJazT_POKoKc8QSKnLGHCQ&usg=AFQjCNGu2mg_0b5ujmeHDgThuTjuyvtuFw&sig2=s9IbDMw3SrKGZk5KJP171g&cad=rja)

<https://engineering.purdue.edu/~frankenb/NU-prowd/community.htm>

Talks about three different options when choosing a waste water disposal system for rural communities.

1. Indiana Small Utilities Tool Kit

<http://www.in.gov/iurc/files/Final_Toolkit.pdf>

http://www.in.gov/iurc/files/Complete\_Toolkit.pdf

Regulatory, Funding, Technical Assistance,

## 8. Section C-3: State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program

<http://www.in.gov/idem/6025.htm>

The Indiana Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan Program provides low-interest loans to Indiana communities for projects that improve wastewater and drinking water infrastructures. The Indiana Finance Authority administers this program that protects both public health and the environment.