



# Clean Watersheds Needs Survey:

## *Sustaining Clean Water by Informing Decisions*

### What is the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS)?

The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs to meet the water quality goals set in the Clean Water Act. Every four years, the states and EPA collect information about:

- Publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities
- Stormwater management projects
- Combined sewer overflow (CSO) control facilities
- Nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects
- Decentralized wastewater management (septic and clustered systems)

EPA reports the results in a Report to Congress. The data is used by Congress, state legislatures and agencies, and local governments to:

- Inform budget and policy decisions
- Develop and implement technical and financial assistance programs
- Help measure environmental progress

### How can you help your state accurately report needs?

Your State reports data for CWNS 2012 from January 9, 2012-October 26, 2012 and is currently collecting information to support this effort. Your State relies on a variety of resources to gather the information to accurately report needs to EPA, including representatives of:

- Wastewater treatment plants
- Municipal stormwater programs
- Municipal health departments
- Engineering firms
- Local governments
- Planning authorities
- Wastewater service providers
- Watershed organizations
- Others with knowledge of water quality needs in their community

You can provide your State with valuable information about the needs and technical information for facilities and projects. You often have the most recent information about water quality needs in your area.

Community Stakeholders participate in CWNS 2012 in one or more of the following ways:

- Provide updated documents to their State CWNS Coordinator
- Complete the Small Community Needs Survey
- Provide feedback on needs and technical information via the CWNS Data Entry Portal (DEP)

Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns>

## How can you participate in CWNS 2012?

### Provide updated documents to their State CWNS Coordinator

To be eligible for CWNS 2012, States must submit documents describing water quality needs and the costs to address them for the facility or project. Commonly used documents include:

- Capital Improvement Plans
- Facility plans
- Final engineer estimates
- Unfunded grant or loan applications
- Sanitary surveys
- Watershed-based plans

A complete list of documents pre-approved for CWNS 2012 is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns> under the section "2012 Planning." Contact information for all State CWNS coordinators is available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/wherelive.htm>.

### Complete the Small Community Needs Survey

For CWNS 2012, Small Communities have a total present resident population less than 10,000 persons. Small Communities can document needs and costs by completing a Small Community Survey and returning it to their State CWNS Coordinator. Contact your State CWNS Coordinator to determine if a survey will be mailed to your community or if you should complete the Small Community Needs survey available at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns> under the heading 2012 Data Entry.

### Update data via the CWNS Data Entry Portal (DEP)

Community stakeholders apply for their accounts at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns> under the heading 2012 Data Entry. State CWNS Coordinators decide whether to accept/reject users, usually within five business days. It is important that Community Stakeholders answer all questions in the application and provide as much information about themselves and their interest in CWNS. This information assists States to approve users' accounts in a timely manner. State inquiries for additional information must be responded to in twenty days, or the State CWNS Coordinator will deny the applicant access.

Community stakeholders with approved CWNS DEP accounts can:

- Provide feedback on needs and technical information via the DEP. Data areas that are particularly important are description of the project/facility and needed changes, point of contact information, population, wastewater treatment plant address, and cost information.
- Directly update Unit Process and Utility Management data via the DEP. Unit Process data submitted by communities helps EPA and States focus their technical support programs.

Learn more at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns>

- Access data from previous surveys
- Find contact information for state and EPA regional CWNS coordinators at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns/wherelive.htm>
- Get Information and resources for CWNS 2012 at <http://www.epa.gov/cwns> under the heading 2012 Data Entry.