

Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program (ODWSP)

New funding to help you protect drinking water

Funding is now available for well and septic projects, voluntary and confidential pollution prevention reviews for businesses, run-off and erosion protection, and additional best management practices.

Who is eligible?

Owners of homes, farms, businesses or other properties, if they have:

- Property that is within, or extends into, a 100-metre radius of a municipal well;
- Property within one kilometre of a municipal surface water intake, or;
- Property within anticipated two-year time-of-travel lines of a municipal well.

To find out if you are eligible phone Derek Matheson, Source Protection Technician, at **519-335-3557** or e-mail **dmatheson@sourcewaterinfo.on.ca**

What projects are funded and why?

Well Decommissioning and Upgrades

Wells that are not properly capped or sealed provide a potential pathway for contaminants to enter underground aquifers – the source of drinking water for municipal wells – without going through the natural filtration processes. Once contamination enters an aquifer it can affect others who use this natural resource. You can take action to eliminate these potential pathways of contamination by upgrading existing wells and by decommissioning old or abandoned wells. The program will provide funding for the sealing and capping of unused water wells, upgrading and maintenance, and connecting to a municipal drinking water service line/trunk line and decommissioning of existing well for eligible landowners.



- **The grant will cover 80 per cent of the cost up to a maximum of \$4,000.**

Septic System Inspection and Upgrades

If a septic system is not functioning properly, waste water, which contains bacteria, viruses, organic matter and nutrients, can leach out before these contaminants are properly treated. Maintaining your septic system will help reduce the risk of drinking water contamination, and increase the value of your property. You can keep your septic system working properly by watching what you put down the drain, having your tank pumped regularly, having it inspected, and correcting any problems that arise. The program will provide funding for connecting to a municipal sewer line and decommissioning the existing septic system, repair or replace septic tank and/or leaching bed, replace holding tank, or add plumbing connections/pump to transfer wastewater to septic tank and/or leaching bed, for eligible landowners.

- **The grant will cover 80 per cent of the cost up to a maximum of \$7,000 or \$15,000 for advanced systems.**

Pollution Prevention Reviews

Confidential pollution prevention reviews are available to eligible small and medium-sized businesses (businesses with 500 employees or fewer). A pollution prevention review can help a business to take action to protect municipal drinking water sources by identifying potential contaminant contributions to ground and surface water sources and recommending activities that can be undertaken to reduce these potential contaminant impacts. Taking action to protect ground and surface water sources can have other benefits to the business such as cost savings and improved community acceptance. Pollution prevention reviews are confidential between the consultant/agency conducting the review and the business owner/operator. The Ontario Ministry of the Environment and the Conservation Authority **do not receive** a copy of the pollution prevention review report.

- **These reviews are being offered free of charge, up to \$12,000, and the results are confidential.**

Runoff and Erosion Protection & Additional Best Management Practices

Runoff from residential areas or fields can carry contaminants towards sources of drinking water. Eroding soils in fields or along stream banks can reduce water quality. Funding is available for a variety of projects that will help reduce the negative impacts of runoff and erosion on sources of drinking water by properly constructing or restoring buffer strips and riparian zones. Financial assistance is also available for selected additional best management practices (BMPs) that protect municipal drinking water sources. The project categories eligible for funding include Improved Manure Storage & Handling, Manure Treatment, Manure Land Application, In Barn Improvements for Water Efficiency, Farmyard and Horticultural Facilities Runoff Control, Product & Waste Management, Upland and Riparian Area Habitat Management, Erosion Control Structures (Riparian), Erosion Control (Non-Riparian), Cover Crops, and Resource Planning for eligible landowners.



- **Grant rates range from 25 to 70 per cent, depending on the project.**
- **Maximum grants range from \$1,500 to \$60,000.**

Additional Funding Available

There may be additional grant money available to the agricultural community through local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA) representatives. Funding available from the ODWSP may be combined with the cost-share programs associated with the Environmental Farm Plan (EFP). In many cases *100 per cent funding* can be attained through cost-share funding opportunities. For information on these combined funding opportunities please contact your local Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association representative (contact information is available at the bottom of this page). Complete your [third-edition](#) Environmental Farm Plan to be eligible for funding through the Crop Improvement Association, contact OSCIA and register today!

Additional funding may also be available through the Huron Clean Water Project, Wellington Rural Water Quality Project, or the Clean Water Project available in Perth and Middlesex. Please contact your local conservation authority to find out more.

What are the deadlines? Projects must be approved and completed by December 9, 2010.

If you have any questions visit us online at sourceprotectionstewardship.on.ca or please call Derek Matheson, Source Protection Technician, at **519-335-3557**.

Thank you for your efforts to protect our drinking water.

Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association Representatives

Huron County – Lois Sinclair – 519-357-3146 – lois.sinclair@ontariosoilcrop.org

Perth County – Mary McIntosh - 519-393-6232 – mary.mcintosh@ontariosoilcrop.org

Wellington County – John Benham – 519-846-0941 – john.benham@ontariosoilcrop.org

The Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program is being delivered in the Ausable Bayfield Maitland Valley Source Protection Region by the Ausable Bayfield and Maitland Valley Conservation Authorities and Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association representatives who deliver the EFP (Environmental Farm Plan). The information provided is for the ODWSP 2009-2010 funding year and may be subject to change.

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