EPA Resources Available to CTAP Communities

As the New England Regional Office of EPA we can offer direct technical assistance through regional staff and programs. We also can offer assistance in the form of funding, planning, training, and education and outreach tools. This is a general list of resources. If communities have specific issues of concern or are in need of EPA assistance, please contact us directly**.**

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Examples of direct technical assistance we may be able to offer
- Water quality monitoring in a degraded stream or river
- Assistance with establishing a volunteer monitoring effort. In 2006 we will announce the availability of a loan program for volunteer water quality monitoring equipment.
- Dispute resolution/mediation services if there is a difficult issue to resolve
- Pollution prevention assistance for particular kinds of businesses (e.g. auto repair, dry cleaners) that may be causing environmental problems

Funding
- Much of EPA's funding goes to state environmental agencies, including the NH Department of Environmental Services (NH DES), and many grant programs are run by the states. Examples include grants for nonpoint source control projects, wetlands projects, sewer projects, and drinking water projects. Communities therefore should become familiar with grants available from NH DES as well as the state Revolving Loan Program for water and wastewater infrastructure. These Revolving Loan Programs consist of funds from EPA and the state, and they are used as a source of low interest loans to communities to fund clean water and safe drinking water projects such as construction or upgrading of wastewater treatment facilities and drinking water treatment plants.

- In addition, EPA has other programs in which we make grants directly to communities. The largest of these is our Brownfields Program. (Brownfields are real property, the expansion, redevelopment or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.) EPA has a variety of funding programs available to help communities assess contamination on brownfields properties, and to clean it up. Information on these programs can be found at www.epa.gov/region1/brownfields

- Other EPA grant programs available to communities through the Regional Office include: Healthy Community Grants, and Wetland Protection grants

Information About Other Funding Sources

- EPA's *Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection* (www.epa.gov/watershedfunding). This Web-based, searchable catalog contains information about financial assistance sources (grants, loans, cost-sharing) that are available to fund watershed projects.

- The *Directory of Watershed Resources* (efc.boisestate.edu/). This on-line, searchable database includes information about available watershed restoration funding. Developed by the EPA-supported Environmental Finance Center Network, the database includes information on federal, state, private, and other funding sources and assistance.

Data and Information

- Communities can find a variety of environmental data on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/region1/topics/infores/data.html. This includes the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) database, which provides information about toxic chemicals that are being used, manufactured, transported, or released into the environment.

- There are also several national databases accessible from the EPA Headquarters website (www.epa.gov) that have environmental data available as well as the ability to generate maps.

- *Envirofacts* (www.epa.gov/enviro). This Web site provides a single point of access to several EPA databases to provide communities with information about environmental activities that may affect air, water, and land anywhere in the United States. With Envirofacts, communities can learn more about these environmental activities in their area or they can generate maps of environmental information

- *Watershed Information Network (WIN)* (www.epa.gov/win/). This Web site serves as a road map to water information and services to help communities protect and restore water quality. The site includes information on programs, financial assistance, regulations, planning, environmental data, and watershed conditions.

Publications

- EPA can provide communities with a wide variety of excellent publications that are designed to help local officials make environmentally sound land use decisions. Examples include: *Getting to Smart Growth I: 100 Policies for Implementation; Local Tools for Smart Growth: Practical Strategies and Techniques to Improve our Communities;* and *Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth.* These smart growth publications are available on EPA's website at www.epa.gov/smartgrowth.

- EPA's *Community-Based Watershed Management Handbook* (www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/nepprimer/handbook.htm). This document

describes the highly successful approaches to watershed management implemented by the 28 National Estuary Programs (NEPs).

- *Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters.* (www.epa.gov/owow/nps/pubs).

Planning Tools

- *Model Ordinances To Protect Local Resources (*www.epa.gov/owow/nps/ordinance/index.htm) A collection of ordinances developed by municipalities and local agencies nationwide that address such topics as "aquatic buffers", "open space development", "illicit discharges", and "post construction controls."

- *EPA's Smart Growth Policies Database* (cfpub.epa.gov/sgpdb/sgdb.cfm)

- *EPA's Green Communities Assistance Kit* (www.epa.gov/greenkit/)

- *Environmental Planning for Small Communities (*www.epa.gov/seahome/trilogy.html) This software and tool, called Trilogy, is described as the Swiss Army Knife of local planning. It offers communities the chance to judge their own needs and preferences, and to make informed decisions.

Training

- *EPA's Watershed Academy* (www.epa.gov/watertrain). This on-line resource offers a series of resources, including live watershed training courses, Web-based training,and publications.

- *EPA's Drinking Water Academy* (www.epa.gov/safewater/dwa.html). This program provides classroom and Web-based training for the purpose of expanding EPA, State, and Tribal capabilities to implement the 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA). Planning Tools

- Watershed Academy Webcast Seminar: "*Low Impact Development Strategies, Tools, and Techniques for Sustainable Watersheds*" (www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/webcasts/).

Education and Outreach Tools

- *EPA's NPS Outreach Digital Toolbox* (www.epa.gov/nps/toolbox/beta) A resource on developing an outreach campaign for your watershed and stormwater pollution control efforts along with a catalog of over 700 outreach products and media materials.

- *"Getting in Step" series* (www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/outreach/documents). Includes (1) *Getting In Step: Engaging and Involving Stakeholders in Your Watershed*, which explains how to form watershed stakeholder groups, keep a group motivated, conduct outreach, resolve conflict, and make decisions using

consensus, and (2) *Getting In Step: A Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns*, which explains how to address public perceptions, promote management activities, and inform or motivate stakeholders.

- *Getting in Step: An on-line training module* *(*www.epa.gov/watertrain/gettinginstep/) This training course conveys the main messages of the book in a shorter format.

- *Getting in Step: A Video Guide for Conducting Watershed Outreach Campaigns* (VHS tape) (EPA 841-V-03-001) is the 35-minute companion video to the guidebook of the same name (EPA 841-B-03-002). The video reinforces the steps of strengthening watershed outreach campaigns and includes four very different examples of watershed outreach campaigns from different parts of the U.S. It is suitable for viewing by watershed stakeholders, educators, local government officials and others interested in watershed campaigns and examples of approaches used by other watershed organizations.

Other

- EPA supports the Environmental Finance Network, which is a University-based program that provides services to communities on "How to Pay" for environmental protection programs and efforts. The New England Environmental Finance Center, which is based at the University of Southern Maine, is focusing on smart growth.   Information about their services can be found at http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu/.

- *Watershed Discussion Forum* (www.epa.gov/watershedforum)*.* The Watershed Discussion Forum is a Web-based utility that offers watershed practitioners a place to exchange ideas, so that innovative solutions and ideas can be easily shared quickly. This website allows users from around the country to post electronic messages to a discussion board, on a variety of topics that include Smart Growth/Low Impact Development, Source Water Protection, Stormwater Best Management Practices, Sustainable Financing, and Watershed Planning Tools.

- *EPA Online Discussion List-Servers* (https://lists.epa.gov/read/all_forums/) EPA supports online discussion forums on a wide variety of topics including water related topics. Online discussion forums are valuable sources of information on topics including training opportunities, recent updates and developments, clarification of issues, and practical experience shared by working professionals in the field and other interested parties. Of particular interest to those in the water resources field might be "basinsinfo," "decentralized," "news-notes," "npsinfo," "volmonitor," "waternews," "watershed-news," and "wqs-news."