



Nonpoint Pointers

Understanding and managing nonpoint source pollution in your community

Pointer
No.

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Programs for Nonpoint Source Control

States, territories, and tribes identify nonpoint source (NPS) pollution as responsible for more than half of the Nation's existing and threatened water quality impairments. To address these water quality problems, federal, state, tribal, territorial, and local governments provide technical assistance and fund programs to implement NPS controls. Other sources of funding are also available. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Financing Information Network Center in Washington, DC (202/260-1020) can provide communities with specific information on how to design and fund the most appropriate NPS pollution strategy.

Federal Programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA administers section 319 of the Clean Water Act, also known as the Nonpoint Source Management Program. Under section 319, states, territories, and tribes apply for and receive grants from EPA to implement NPS pollution controls. As of 1995, EPA had awarded more than \$370 million under section 319 to address NPS pollution problems.

Government agencies provide technical assistance and fund programs to implement NPS controls.

EPA administers other sections of the Clean Water Act to help states, territories, and tribes to plan for and implement water pollution programs, which can include measures for NPS control. These include section 104(b)(3), Water Quality Cooperative Agreements; section 104(g), Small

Community Outreach; section 106, Grants for Pollution Control Programs; section 314, Clean Lakes Program; section 320, National Estuary Program; and section 604(b), Water Quality Management Planning. Together with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, EPA helps administer section 6217 of the 1990 Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments, a program that tackles nonpoint source pollution affecting coastal waters.



A
series
of fact sheets
on nonpoint
source (NPS) pollution

***Did you know
that communities
rely on government
programs and
alternative sources
of funding, such as
investing in water
conservation, to
help control NPS
pollution?***

NPS pollution occurs when water runs over land or through the ground, picks up pollutants, and deposits them in surface waters or introduces them into ground water.

RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- Additional fact sheets in the Nonpoint Pointers series (EPA-841-F-96-004)
- Clean Water in Your Watershed, Terrene Institute, Washington, DC, 1993
- The Clean Water State Revolving Fund: Financing America's Environmental Infrastructure—A Report to Congress (EPA-832-R-95-001)
- The Quality of Our Nation's Water: 1994 (EPA-841-S-95-004)
- State and Local Funding of Nonpoint Source Control Programs (EPA-841-R-92-003)
- A State and Local Government Guide to Environmental Program Funding Alternatives (EPA-841-K-94-001)

To order any of the above EPA documents call or fax the National Center for Environmental Publications and Information.

Tel (513) 489-8190

Fax (513) 489-8695

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- EFIN Center (Telephone: (202) 260-0420)
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Nonpoint Source Control Branch
Washington DC 20460

Internet Address:

<http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/index.html>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

NOAA administers section 306 of the Coastal Zone Management Act that provides funds for water pollution control projects, including NPS management activities, in states with coastal zones. Together with the EPA, NOAA also helps administer section 6217 of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments. This requires the 29 states with approved Coastal Zone Management Programs to establish and implement Coastal Nonpoint Pollution Control Programs.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

The USDA administers incentive-based conservation programs through the Consolidated Farm Services Agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the U.S. Forest Service to help control NPS pollution from agriculture, forestry, and urban sources.

U.S. Department of Transportation/Federal Highway Administration

Under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, the Federal Highway Administration developed erosion control guidelines for federally funded construction projects on roads, highways, and bridges.

U.S. Department of the Interior

Within the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Fish and Wildlife Service administer several programs to help states manage NPS pollution by providing technical assistance and financial support. For example, the Fish and Wildlife Service administers the Clean Vessel Act, which provides grants to construct sewage pumpout stations at marinas.

Alternative Funding Sources

Some communities rely on a combination of alternative funding sources to implement NPS controls. In 1994, EPA published *A State and Local Government Guide to Environmental Program Funding Alternatives*. This brochure gives examples of how states can use the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, leases, grants, taxes, fees, and bonds to craft innovative and effective strategies to generate funds for NPS controls. In addition, government agencies can establish programs to encourage investments in water conservation technologies.