

## Innovative Solutions

The Office of Wastewater Management supports innovative initiatives for clean water, such as:



### **Mexico Border Program:**

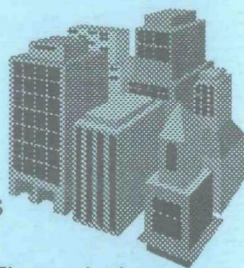
In support of the North American Free Trade Agreement, the U.S. and Mexico are establishing new organizations to help control

pollution along the border and protect the nine million people who live there.

**Pollution Prevention:** EPA promotes pollution prevention efforts to reduce wastewater pollution and conserve water resources. Our Water Alliances for Voluntary Efficiency (WAVE) Program helps participating businesses reduce the amount of water they use.

### **Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program:**

Federal, state, and local government investments in wastewater treatment total billions of dollars. Through the Municipal Water Pollution Prevention Program, EPA helps municipalities to reduce water pollution, improve environmental compliance, and reduce waste in many communities.



**Innovative Technology:** EPA investigates new, easier, and less costly technologies to meet the needs of the wastewater industry. The Agency's efforts focus on both wastewater treatment and pollution prevention technologies.

***For more information  
about EPA's wastewater  
management programs,  
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United States  
Environmental Protection  
Agency

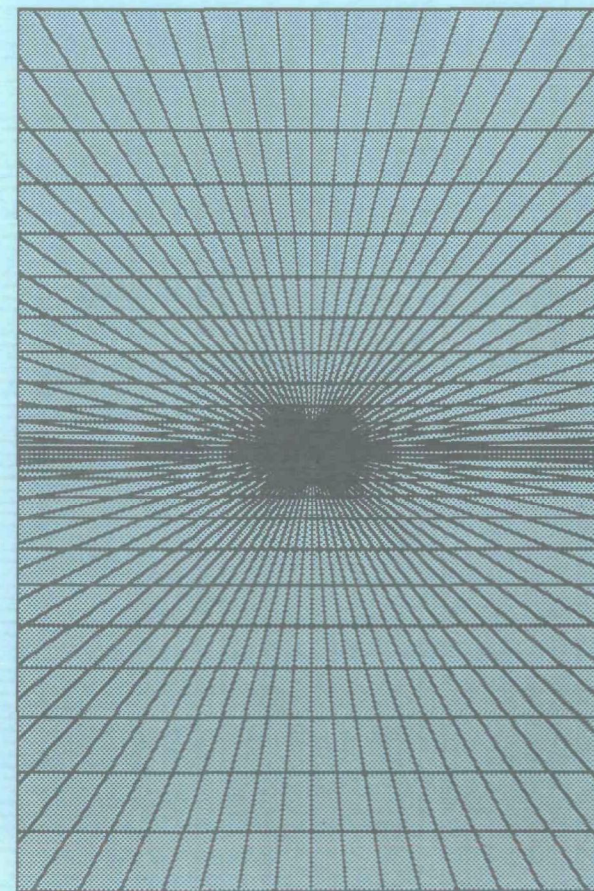
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**Clean Water...  
A Better  
Environment:**

**Wastewater  
Management  
at EPA**





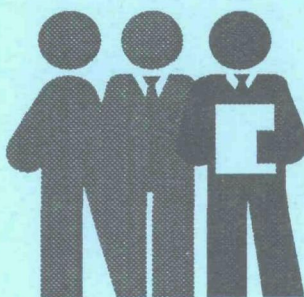
# ***Clean Water... A Better Environment***

## ***EPA'S WASTEWATER PROGRAM ACTIVITIES***

EPA's Office of Wastewater Management administers programs to improve the condition of our nation's watersheds. Operating under authority of the Clean Water Act, the Office works with key stakeholders, including EPA Regions, states, municipalities, and the public, to enhance ecosystem protection. Major activities include:

***The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permit Program:*** The Clean Water Act requires factories, municipal sewage treatment plants, and other dischargers ("point sources") to have permits establishing pollution limits and monitoring and reporting requirements.

***Storm Water:*** Rain and snow melt that run off streets and parking lots often combine with litter, pesticides, and other wastes to create polluted storm water. Eventually, industrial facilities, businesses, and large municipal storm water collection systems will need permits limiting the amount of pollution allowed in storm water.



***Working  
Together  
for a Better  
Environment***

***Biosolids (Sewage Sludge):*** Properly managed biosolids (sewage sludge that can be beneficially used) can be of great benefit to agricultural crops. EPA regulates the use and disposal of sewage sludge to obtain benefits while avoiding harm to the environment.

***Combined Sewer Overflows:*** Combined sewer overflows are mixtures of raw sewage, industrial wastewater, and storm water released into the environment without treatment. Such overflows occur when the volume of wastewater exceeds the capacity of a combined sewer system. There are about 1,100 communities with 11,000 overflow discharge points. Overflows can close beaches, contaminate shell fish, and cause other water quality and health problems.

***National Watershed Permitting Strategy:*** Working with the states, EPA has developed a strategy to streamline wastewater permitting on a watershed basis. This strategy is part of EPA's effort to promote integrated solutions to surface water, groundwater, and habitat protection in America's watersheds.

***Pretreatment:*** The National Pretreatment Program regulates industrial users producing wastes that pass through or interfere with municipal treatment works. EPA also authorizes cities to establish pretreatment requirements to solve local pollution problems.

***State Revolving Funds:*** These funds provide loans for municipalities to finance publicly-owned treatment works, to manage pollution control efforts, and to establish conservation programs. EPA also helps communities find alternative sources of funds to meet their wastewater management needs.

***Indicators of Success:*** As industry and communities implement pollution-control requirements, EPA is developing new ways to measure success, such as environmental indicators. Partnerships with key stakeholders will track progress in pollution prevention and control.