



Source Water Protection at the Federal Level

EPA's Partnership Driven Approach to Protect Sources of Drinking Water

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The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) & Source Water Protection

- 1974: SDWA established
 - Enforceable standards for drinking water quality & requires public water systems to monitor to ensure compliance
- 1996: SDWA Amendments
 - State Source Water Assessment Program
 - States to conduct source water assessments for public water systems



Potential Sources of Contamination Identified in Region 3 States

- Commonly identified among states
 - Agriculture – crop and animal
 - Commercial/Industrial sources
 - Transportation
 - Residential housing
 - Urban Stormwater
- Locally important concerns, depending upon geology, land use, urbanization, etc.
- Variability between surface water and ground water sources

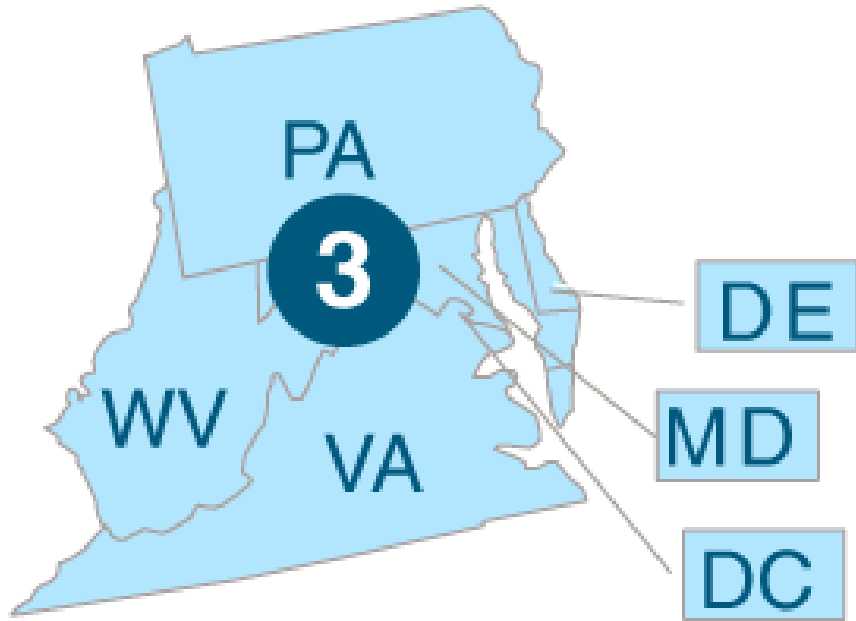


Photo Credit: Philadelphia Water Department



Photo Credit: Schuylkill Action Network

Source Water Programs in Region 3 States



- Source Water Protection (SWP) is a voluntary program in most Region 3 states.
 - WV is the exception – mandated by state law
- All R3 State programs are grounded in the assessments required by the 1996 SDWA amendments
- SWP activities can be split among multiple state agencies
 - VA: VDH & VDEQ
- Emerging trends: Water Security and Resiliency
 - DOEE – Inspection and Enforcement Division
 - Regionwide: Implementation of early warning systems



Source Water Protection Program





Photo Credit: Delaware State Parks

Collaboration with NRCS

- EPA has a longstanding partnership with NRCS to utilize Federal resources to help improve and protect water quality through voluntary conservation.
- The 2018 Farm Bill added a provision providing for the protection of source water through targeted conservation practices.
 - Dedicated at least 10% of total conservation funds (*Approximately \$4B*) for source water protection through FY'23
- **National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI):** Focuses on the adoption of voluntary conservation practices at targeted locations in small, high-priority agricultural watersheds.
- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP):** NRCS' flagship conservation program that helps farmers, ranchers and forest owners integrate conservation into working lands.



Credit: Schuylkill Action Network

Leveraging Federal Resources



- 2019 National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Source Water Readiness Pilot
- Region 3 Source Water outreach: PA NRCS, PADEP, SAN partners led to Maiden Creek NWQI selection
- Outcomes
 - NRCS \$6.7M in funding, 13K acres treated, 411 conservation plans
 - Nitrate levels have dropped
 - Leverage resources for multiple water improvement goals: drinking water and water quality co-benefits

Integrating Tools for Clean and Safe Water

- EPA Region 3 has championed the integration of CWA/SDWA tools and resources to meet the needs of source water protection
- **CWA/SDWA Toolkit:** Opportunities to Protect Drinking Water Sources and Advance Watershed Goals through the Clean Water Act
- **FITS: Funding Integration Tool for Source Water:** FITS is a one-stop-shop tool that explains how users can integrate various federal funding sources for activities that protect sources of drinking water.



Integrating Funding for Clean and Safe Water

- Clean Water & Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRF)
 - EPA's largest grant program. Incorporates funding for Drinking water, Wastewater, & Stormwater
 - Greatly expanded via the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill (Lead & Emerging Contaminates)
 - SRF loans and grants are one of the primary resources available to utilities/municipalities for infrastructure improvements and restoration work
- Clean Water Act - 319 Nonpoint Source Grants
 - BMP implementation, outreach and education programs
- Clean Water Act - 106 Pollution Control Grants
 - Funds drafting of SWP plans, groundwater mapping, vulnerability studies, local grant programs

DWSRF



General Supplemental

49% Loan Forgiveness

10% State Match



Emerging Contaminants

100% Loan Forgiveness

0% State Match



Lead Service Line

49% Loan Forgiveness

0% State Match

CWSRF



General Supplemental

49% Loan Forgiveness

10% State Match



Emerging Contaminants

100% Loan Forgiveness

0% State match

Utilizing CWSRF and DWSRF for Source Water Protection

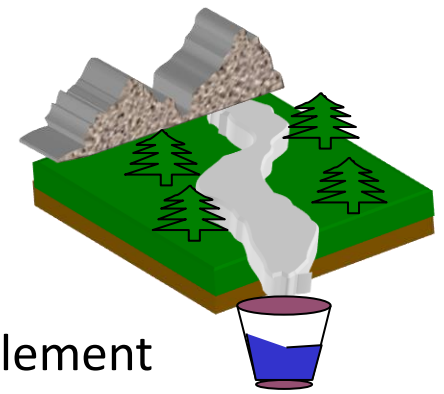
Eligible Projects:

- Agricultural BMPs
- Forestry BMPs
- Easements/Land Conservation
- Green Infrastructure
- Stream Restoration
- Wetlands
- WQ Protection/Restoration

Eligible Borrowers:

- DWSRF:
 - Public Water Systems
- CWSRF:
 - Individuals
 - Conservation Districts
 - Government Entities
 - Nonprofit entities
 - Businesses
 - Watershed groups
 - Community groups

Keys to Success in Region 3



Build partnerships and enhance collaboration:

- Both intra/inter-agency and external partnerships enhance our ability to implement SWP. Building relationships is key to leveraging partners and combining efforts to protect water from source to tap.

Leverage existing efforts and resources, wherever possible:

- Many existing EPA and NRCS programs can be leveraged to achieve SWP goals. Different partners bring different experiences and resources to the table; partnerships can help us to leverage these resource to deliver the biggest impact.

Local collaborative efforts “move the needle”:

- Federal, state and regional organizations and networks can help set up the conditions for success, but it is ultimately source water protection partnerships, projects and actions at the local level that have an impact.



Questions?

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