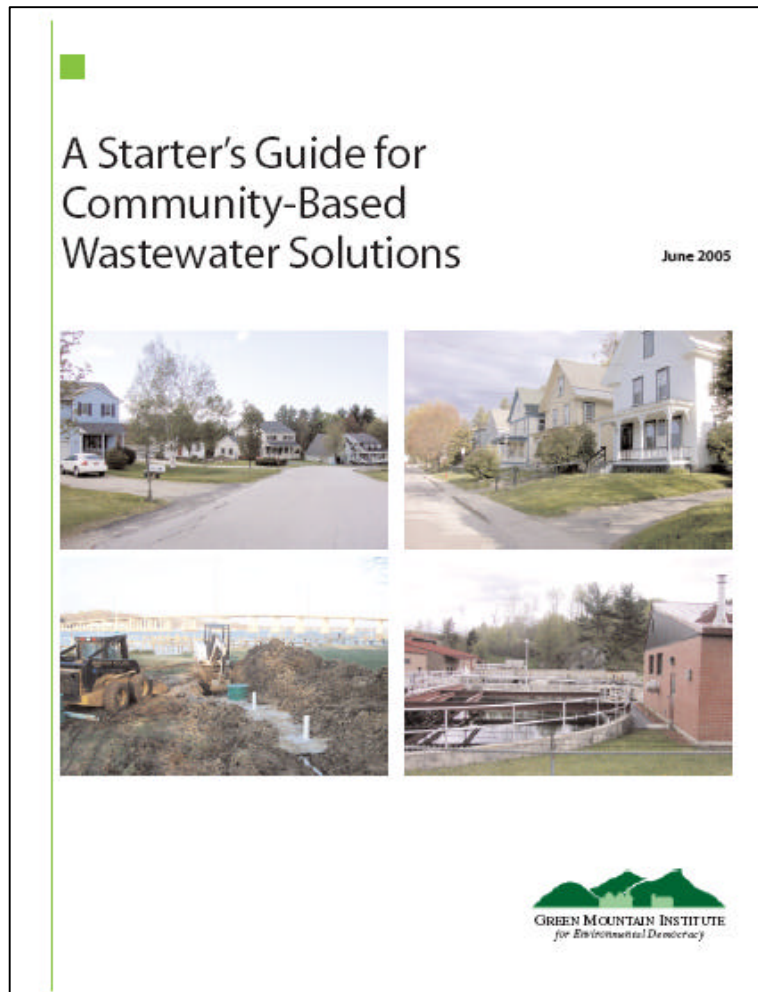

National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project

Executive Summary



Expanding Communication in Communities Addressing Wastewater Needs

Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy
Montpelier, VT

June 2005

Expanding Communication in Communities Addressing Wastewater Needs

**Submitted by Green Mountain Institute for
Environmental Democracy
Montpelier, VT**

NDWRCDP Project Number: **WU-HT-03-34**

National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project
(NDWRCDP) Research Project

Final Report, **June 2005**

DISCLAIMER

This work was supported by the National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project (NDWRCDP) with funding provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through a Cooperative Agreement (EPA No. CR827881-01-0) with Washington University in St. Louis. This report has not been reviewed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. This report has been reviewed by a panel of experts selected by the NDWRCDP. The contents of this report do not necessarily reflect the views and policies of the NDWRCDP, Washington University, or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation for use.



CITATIONS

This report was prepared by

Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy
75 Clarendon Avenue
Montpelier, VT 05602

The final report was edited and produced by ProWrite Inc., Reynoldsburg, OH.

This report is available online at <http://www.ndwrcdp.org/>. This report is also available through the

National Small Flows Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 6064
Morgantown, WV 26506-6065
Tel: (800) 624-8301
WWCDMG48

This report should be cited in the following manner:

Jones, K. 2005. *Expanding Communication in Communities Addressing Wastewater Needs*. Project No. WU-HT-03-34. Prepared for the National Decentralized Water Resources Capacity Development Project, Washington University, St. Louis, MO, by the Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy, Montpelier, VT.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Appreciation is extended to the following individuals for assistance in the preparation of this report:

Stone Environmental, Montpelier, VT

Mary Clark
Carl Etnier
Scott Johnstone

Calvert County Office of Planning and Zoning, Prince Frederick, MD

Dave Brownlee

Town of Waitsfield, Waitsfield, VT

William Bryant

Gund Institute for Ecological Economics, Burlington, VT

Alexey Voinov
Erica Gaddis
Mark Keffer
Roel Boumans

Rocky Mountain Institute, Snowmass, CO

Richard Pinkham

Appreciation is also expressed to the NDWRCDP for their support of this work:

Principal Investigator

Jay R. Turner, D.Sc., Washington University

Project Coordinator

Andrea L. Shephard, Ph.D.

NDWRCDP Project Steering Committee:

Coalition for Alternative Wastewater Treatment

Valerie I. Nelson, Ph.D.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Scott Drake, P.E.

Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment

Ted L. Loudon, Ph.D., P.E.

Water Environment Research Foundation

Jeff C. Moeller, P.E.

Electric Power Research Institute

Raymond A. Ehrhard, P.E.
Tom E. Yeager, P.E.

Members-At-Large:

James F. Kreissl
Richard J. Otis, Ph.D., P.E.
Jerry Stonebridge

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

Jean Caudill, R.S.




ABSTRACT

The Green Mountain Institute for Environmental Democracy and its partners, the Gund Institute for Ecological Economics and the Rocky Mountain Institute, have developed a number of products that small communities can use to improve participation in wastewater decision making. The products are compiled in a document titled: *A Starter's Guide for Community-Based Wastewater Solutions*. This guide is the result of applying some of the tools in four sample communities and a two-day discussion with representatives from national organizations that assist communities in wastewater system development.

There are two levels of support represented by the *Starter's Guide*. For communities just starting down the path of developing a solution to wastewater needs, it is important to build an awareness and interest in wastewater issues. In order to accomplish the early level of participation, communities can sponsor and participate in a number of activities that have a limited degree of content about wastewater technologies. After a nucleus of individuals in a community are interested in pursuing a solution, it is then useful to develop a project structure that includes a list of tasks that will ensure the successful design and implementation of a cost-effective solution. The *Starter's Guide* includes some exercises and examples to help community members complete a comprehensive wastewater project.

A group of community assistance providers gave their general support to the efforts outlined in the *Starter's Guide* during the two-day discussion. In addition, they identified some modifications that strengthen the *Starter's Guide* and its delivery. In the final phase of this project, three of the community assistance providers used parts of the *Starter's Guide* in developing community projects to address wastewater needs.

Copyright ©2005 Green Mountain Institute for Environmental
Democracy, Montpelier, VT. All rights reserved.

 Printed on recycled paper in the United States of America.

WU-HT-03-34

NDWRCDP

Washington University, Campus Box 1150, One Brookings Drive, Cupples 2, Rm. 11, St. Louis, Missouri 63130-4899 • USA

*This report is available online at www.ndwrcdp.org. This report is also available through the
National Small Flows Clearinghouse • West Virginia University/NRCCE, P.O. Box 6064, Morgantown, WV 26506-6064 • USA
Tel: (800) 624-8301 • WWCDMG48*