

The Clean Water Act

Clean Water Act Funding for Early Actions

Clean Water Act funding will be provided in two phases. The first is the Source Protection Program a transitional program in which \$7 million is being made available in 2007-2008. The second is the Ontario Drinking Water Stewardship Program, where \$21 million will be made available over three years starting in the spring of 2008 through to spring of 2011.

Early Actions funding to protect municipal drinking water sources

Of the \$7 million available in 2007-2008, \$5 million will support early actions to protect municipal drinking water sources, namely municipal wellheads and municipal surface water intakes. Specifically, this funding will be available for the following five priorities:

- decommissioning old abandoned wells and maintenance of existing wells
- septic system inspections and upgrades
- overland runoff protection
- pollution prevention audits aimed at better management of materials storage, handling, and disposal; and
- land conservation measures to protect wellhead areas

Decommissioning old abandoned wells and maintenance of existing wells

Decommissioning abandoned wells, including the testing, monitoring, and technical work on water wells, and upgrading drinking water wells, may prevent these wells and poorly maintained wellheads from becoming pollutant pathways to

municipal drinking water sources. Funding will be made available to all landowners (residential, business, institutional, farm) whose properties are located within or extend into the 100 metre radius of a municipal wellhead or a 200 metre radius of a municipal surface water intake.

Septic systems inspections and upgrades

The septic program will provide funding for the repair, upgrade, or replacement of faulty or malfunctioning septic systems that are located within or extend into the 100 metre radius of a municipal wellhead or a 200 metre radius of a municipal surface water intake.

Overland runoff protection

The purpose of the overland runoff protection program is to protect municipal drinking water sources from runoff contamination and soil erosion through properly restoring buffer strips and riparian zones. Funding will be available to eligible registered farmers and all other landowners that are located within or extend into the 100 metre radius of a municipal wellhead or a 200 metre radius of a municipal surface water intake.

Pollution prevention audits aimed at better management of materials storage, handling, and disposal

Pollution prevention audits will be made available to small and medium-sized businesses that are located within or extend into the 100 metre radius of a municipal wellhead or a 200 metre radius of a municipal surface water intake. These audits will

be available to businesses that manufacture, handle, store, and dispose of materials into water, land, or air, and will identify threats to sources of municipal drinking water.

Land conservation measures to protect wellhead areas

Land conservation entails voluntary sale or purchase of land within a municipal wellhead area, or temporary lease or easement, to address a direct or indirect contamination source or pathway resulting from existing land uses on the property. Land conservation may also be coupled with overland runoff protection and other measures, as well as the removal of a land activity that is a threat to municipal drinking water sources.

Further information on funding for these five priorities can be obtained from local conservation authorities at:

http://www.conservation-ontario.on.ca/source_protection/otherswpreionsindex.htm

Further information on the Clean Water Act can be found on the Ministry of the Environment website at:

www.ontario.ca/cleanwater

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