

## What is the Source Protection Plan?

The Source Protection Plan is a policy document that directs local efforts to protect our sources of municipal drinking water. The Plan was developed by a multi-stakeholder committee in consultation with the local community.

Policies in the Plan use a variety of approaches to manage, eliminate, or prevent activities that could threaten municipal drinking water sources.

## Where Does the Plan Apply?

The Source Protection Plan applies to municipal drinking water systems that are located within the Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region. This area includes 53 municipal drinking water systems that supply water to over 200,000 people.

The policies in the Plan apply in areas where activities have the potential to present significant threats to a municipal drinking water source. These “vulnerable areas” include:

- Wellhead protection areas (WHPA) for groundwater sources
- Intake protection zones (IPZ) for surface water sources

Maps showing the areas where policies apply are given for each municipal drinking water system in Appendix 2 of the Source Protection Plan. The Plan is available online at [www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca](http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca).

## Affected Activities

The activities addressed by the Source Protection Plan include a list of activities specified in the Clean Water Act. The Source Protection Plan groups that list into the following categories:

- Sewage systems
- Agricultural activities
- Non-agricultural source material
- Fuel storage and handling
- Chemical storage and handling
- Waste disposal sites
- Road salt application
- Snow storage
- Aircraft de-icing

Policies in the Source Protection Plan apply to the above activities when they are carried out in areas and under circumstances that make them significant threats to drinking water. In a limited number of cases, policies apply to other activities than those listed above where they have been shown to be local concerns.

### *Why is Source Protection Important?*

- To protect public health
- To avoid the cost and need to clean up contaminated water
- To reduce water treatment cost
- To ensure a long-term supply of clean water

### *What is the TCC Region?*

The Trent Conservation Coalition Source Protection Region is a planning region established by Ontario’s Clean Water Act for the purpose of administering the drinking water source protection program. The region is based on the Trent and Ganaraska River watersheds and stretches from Algonquin Park to Lake Ontario and the Bay of Quinte.

The region is made up of five Source Protection Areas that are based on Conservation Authority boundaries (Crowe Valley, Kawartha, Ganaraska, Otonabee, and Lower Trent), and it also includes areas outside of Conservation Authority jurisdiction.

## Policy Highlights

The Source Protection Plan applies a variety of policy approaches to protect municipal water sources. The following is a summary of the main policy approaches used in the Plan.

- **Risk Management Plans**

Many existing activities that are significant drinking water threats require the development of a Risk Management Plan (RMP).

These are site-specific plans that set out the measures that need to be taken to make sure that an activity is being carried out in a way that is protective of drinking water. The contents of the RMP are negotiated between a Risk Management Official and the person engaged in the activity.

- **Land Use Planning**

The Source Protection Plan includes several policies that make use of municipal land use planning. These policies require updates to the municipality's Official Plan, including the creation of policies to address sewage servicing and the prohibition of certain land uses within vulnerable areas. Further, development applications within vulnerable areas will now need to be accompanied by a notice from the Risk Management Official before they can be completed.

- **Education and Outreach**

An important part of the Source Protection Plan is the creation of programs to educate individuals and businesses that are located within vulnerable areas about the how their activities can threaten water sources and about what they can do to minimize the risks. Some municipalities are developing and implementing education and outreach programs themselves, and others have delegated the delivery of the program to another body, such as a Conservation Authority.

- **Prescribed Instruments**

For activities that are being addressed by existing regulatory approvals (e.g. Environmental Compliance Approvals issued under the Ontario Water Resources Act and Nutrient Management Plans issued under the Nutrient Management Act), policies in the Source Protection Plan require the issuer of the approval to re-evaluate the conditions of the approval to make sure that they are adequate to ensure that the activity is carried out in a way that is protective of drinking water.

- **Other Approaches**

Further to the above, the Source Protection Plan includes a variety of other policy approaches, including:

- Creation of bylaws to address existing septic systems and transport pathways
- Prohibition of future instances of some types of activities
- Consideration of land acquisition as an approach to protecting water sources

### *What is a Risk Management Official?*

Risk Management Officials are specially trained individuals who will enforce policies in the Source Protection Plan that require the creation of Risk Management Plans or the enforcement of a prohibition.

The RMO is also an important part of the development application review process in vulnerable areas. A notice from an RMO will be required for a complete planning application in a vulnerable area.

Some municipalities have appointed an RMO and others have delegated the responsibilities of the RMO to another body such as a Conservation Authority.

**For more information visit our website at [www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca](http://www.trentsourceprotection.on.ca)**