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Colorado Professionals in Onsite Wastewater

2026 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

CPOW Educational Program: A Retrospective

Presenter:
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- Bachelor of Science Degree in Biological Sciences from Missouri University of Science and Technology
- Master of Science degree in Environmental Science and Engineering from the Colorado School of Mines
- Registered Professional Engineer in Colorado
- Owner of Church Onsite Wastewater Consultants
- CPOW Instructor
  - NAWT Inspector Course
  - CPOW Soils Course
  - CPOW Design Course

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The information and ideas expressed in this presentation are those of CPOW and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of NOWRA.

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What is CPOW?

COLORADO
PROFESSIONALS
in
ONSITE
WASTEWATER

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Who is CPOW?

- Established in 2004
- Central organization created to represent the OWTS industry in CO.
- Membership includes all sectors
  - Designers/engineers,
  - Contractors/Installers
  - Regulators
  - Manufacturers/Suppliers
  - Maintenance/Service Providers
  - Other industry professionals

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What does CPOW offer?

- Annual Education Conference
- Member Appreciation Days & other Networking Events
- State & National regulatory involvement & lobbying
- OWTS Training & Certification

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Education

Core Principles:

1. Professionalism
2. Experience
3. Regulatory Change Involvement
4. Promote Best Industry Practices
5. Feedback and Collaboration
6. Meet Industry Needs
7. Course Development & Updates
8. Providing Opportunities for Mentorship

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OWTS Training & Education

- Multiple OWTS Courses offered each year
- In-Person & live Online classes via Zoom
- Courses include:
  - NAWT Training & Certificate Courses
    - OWTS Inspection
    - Installer 1 & 2
    - Operations & Maintenance 1 & 2
  - CPOW Soils Course
  - CPOW Design Course

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Origin Story:
An Overview of the Early Years

- **2004** - Jefferson County established it's OWTS Use Permit Program, which created a mandatory transfer-of-ownership inspection and Use Permit requirement for OWTS in their jurisdiction.
- **2008** – CPOW President Brian Scheffe introduces the idea of a Training & Education Program
  - The idea came from seeing what training opportunities were available at the Pumper Show (now known as the WETT Show)
  - CDPHE was in the early stages of creating stakeholder groups to discuss upcoming changes to current state regulations
- **2010** – Bob Wright & Kim Seipp deliver the first NAWT Inspector Course as part of the CPOW Training and Education Program, with the NAWT Installer Course to follow.
- **2011-2012** – The NAWT Installer Course and Operations & Maintenance Courses were added to the CPOW Course options.
- **2013** – Comprehensive overhaul of State Regulation 43 which governs OWTS in Colorado

If you build it, they will come…

- **2009** – NAWT OWTS Training program was selected
- Who is going to teach the classes?
  - Training the Trainers
  - Inspector, Installer, & O&M



- **2010** – CPOW hosted their first NAWT Inspector Course
- **3 Inspector Courses** held the first year, plus an OWTS Awareness Course
- **30 participants** per course

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More Classes!



- Let's add some other NAWT Classes to the list
- **2011** – NAWT Installer Course was added
- **2012** – NAWT O&M Course was added
  - Training not yet required in the regulations
  - *Not required = lower turnout = fewer offerings*
- **Boulder County** was the first to require training for OWTS Installers.

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2013 - Regulation 43 Updates

- **First major updates to Reg 43 since 1994**.
- Established statewide minimum OWTS standards
- Empowered local public health agencies and county boards
- Introduced broader options & greater flexibility
- **Starting in 2013**, Counties and local agencies began enacting new regulations
- **Jan 2017** – at least 12 counties had their own Title of Transfer Programs

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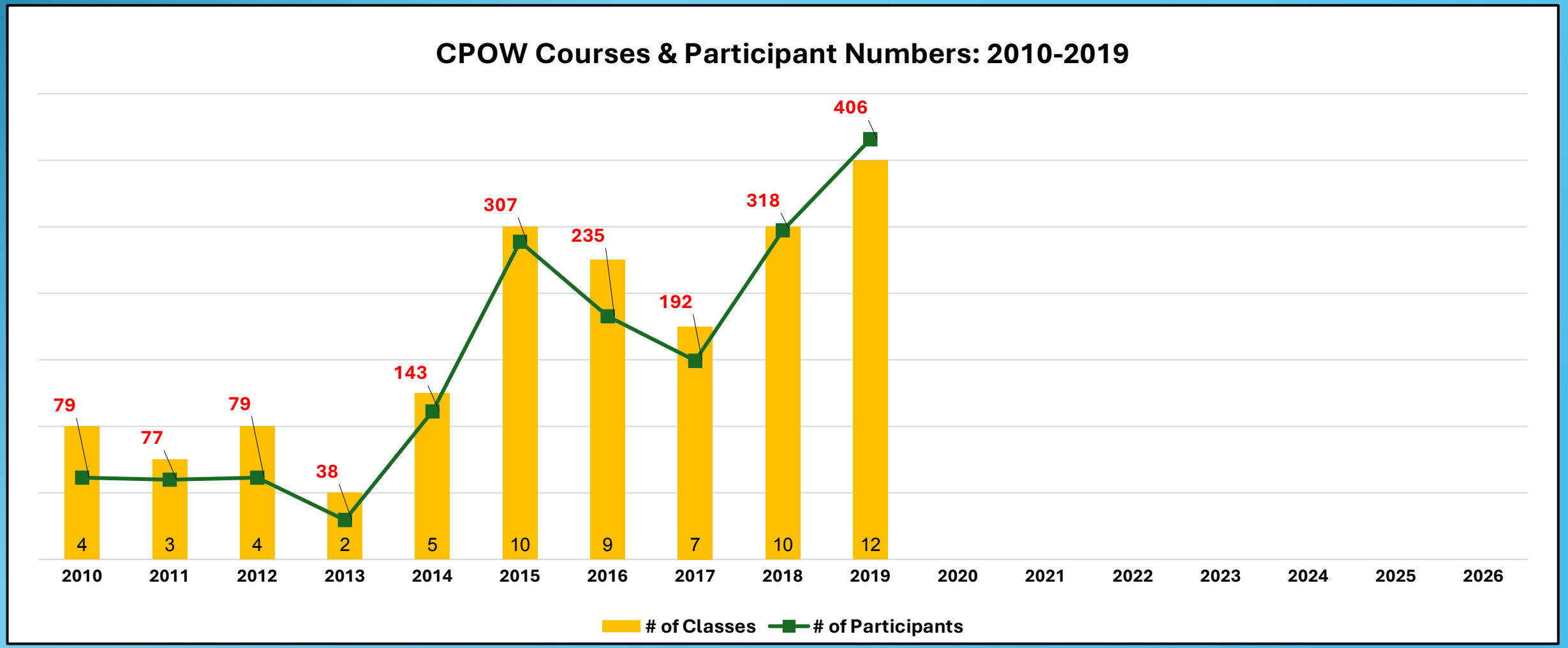
What about a Soils Course?



- **Reg 43** - From Perc tests to "Competent Soils Technician"
- **2012** – Bringing the Soils Course to Colorado
- **2012-2014** – Developing the class for CO Reg 43
- **2014** – First version of the CO-specific Soils Evaluation Course hosted by CPOW
- Multiple Soils Classes are held every year
- **700+ SOILS CERTIFICATES ISSUED!**

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Getting Bigger Every Year



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And then came 2020: COVID and the Great Pivot

- **2020** – 12 classes scheduled
- **Mid-March** – All remaining courses are cancelled
- **What now?**
  How about we go online . . .
- **June 2020** – First fully online NAWT O&M 1 Course via Zoom
- **SIX MORE ONLINE CLASSES!**
- Online classes = participants from across the country
  - 40 different states
  - Canada, too!

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From Online to In-Person again

- **Fall 2021** - In-Person Soils Courses resume in Aug & September of that year.
  - NAWT courses remain Online using Zoom.
- **2024** - In-Person NAWT Installer & Inspector Courses resumed.
  - Course participants could registered to attend either In-Person or Online
  - O&M Courses remained Online only

- **Aug 2024 – A NEW CO-specific OWTS Design Course.**



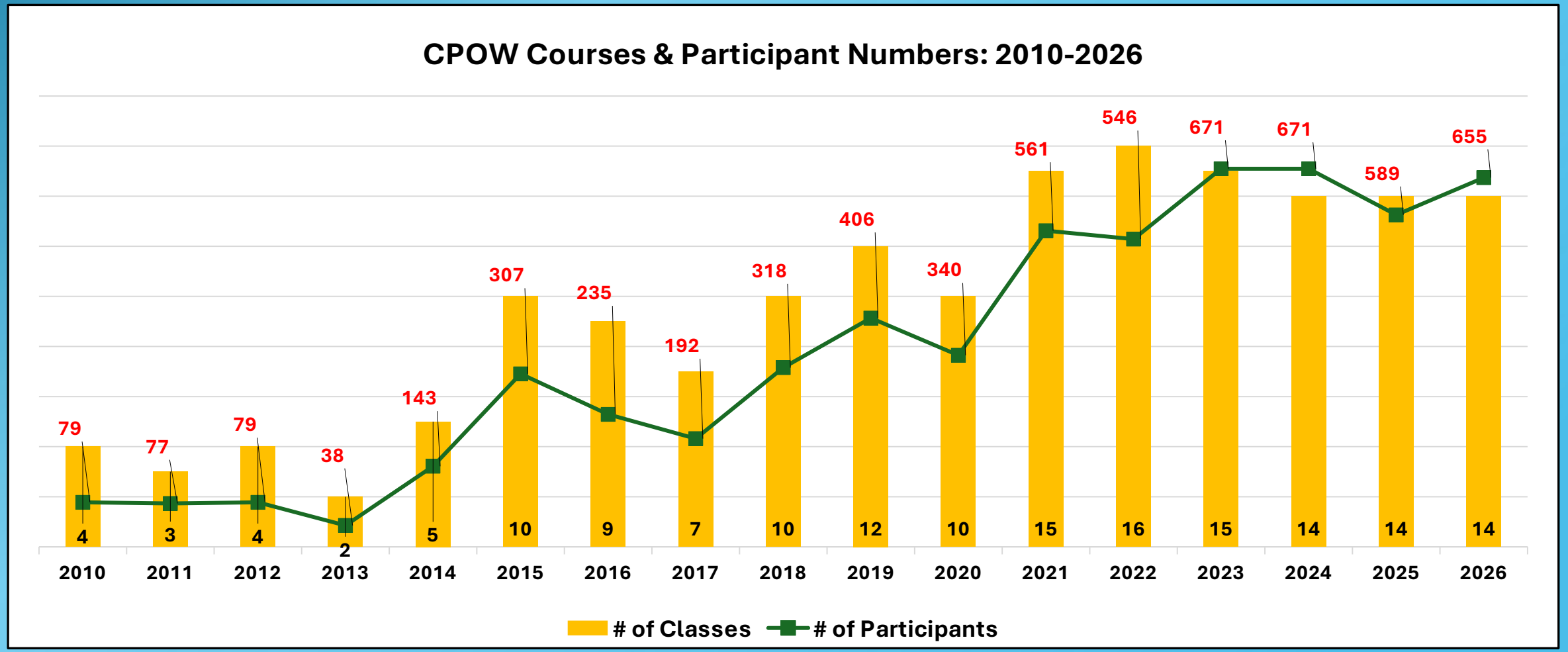
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Colorado & OWTS Design

- **2022** – Committee formed to develop a new & improved **Colorado-specific OWTS Design Course**
- Development by Designers & Regulators from across the state.
- Class includes completing Online Modules + attending live In-Person Class
  - Soils Course is a pre-requisite
- **2024** – First CPOW OWTS Design Course is hosted in Lakewood
  - *Newest CPOW-developed Course*

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Look at the Growth!



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The Future

- **2026 –** Updates to CPOW Soils Course
- **2027 Course Schedule** – Available on the CPOW website, with in-person venue locations to come
- **2028 & Beyond** – Changes & updates to other courses + additional OWTS courses and modules to be offered.
- **Our Goal** - Long-Term Success of the OWTS Industry



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Thank you!