

# Overview of New and Future NOWRA Grants

Presented by: Dr. Sara Hegerl | Mega-Conference 2025

The logo for the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA). It features the word "NOWRA" in a bold, dark blue serif font. The letter "O" is replaced by a stylized blue graphic consisting of two overlapping, curved shapes that resemble a water droplet or a recycling symbol.

National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

Presented at NOWRA 2025 Mega-Conference, October 19-22, 2025.

# Grant #1 – Homeowner Training Materials



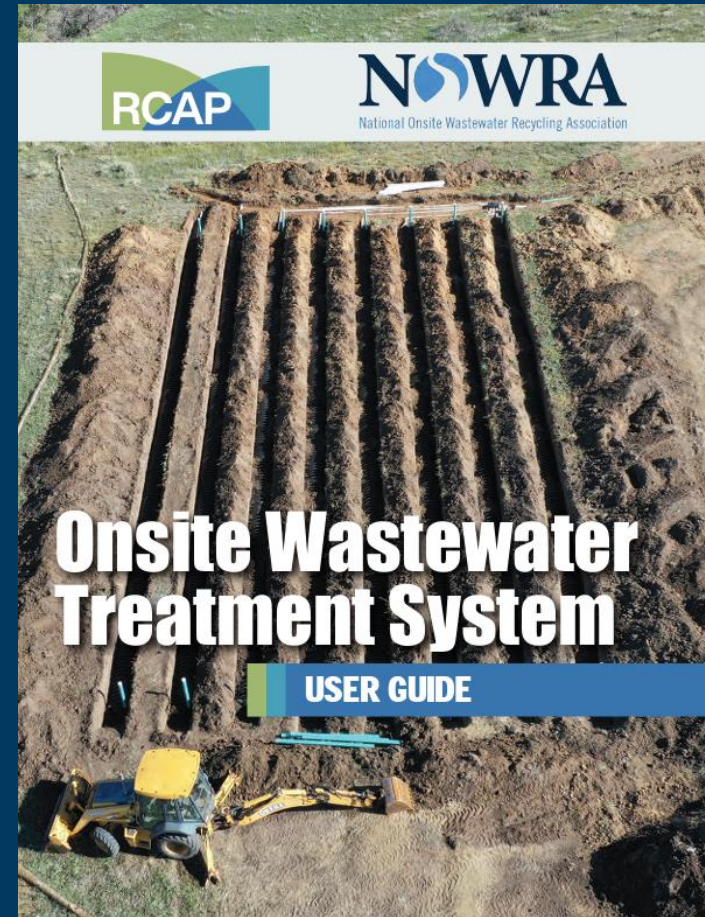
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# 2023-2024 – Homeowner Training Materials

- Training course overview and outline
- User guide available in Flipbook and PDF format
- Slide sets with extensive speaker notes with integrated EPA videos and diagrams
- Pre/post quiz
- Videos and drone photos to show construction and for troubleshooting
- Evaluation
- [www.nowra.org/resources](http://www.nowra.org/resources)



# Online Free Self Paced Module



- Homeowner Education Program
- Homeowner User Guide download
- FREE Interactive online course



<https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/>





# Sistema de tratamiento de aguas residuales en sitio

GUÍA DEL USUARIO

## 2025 Update – Spanish Version

# Grant #2 – Training Material Development Grant



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## Current EPA Grant Projects (2023 – 2026)

- Project #1: Operation and Maintenance
- Project #2: Solutions for Difficult Sites
- Project #3: Resolving Challenges in Small Communities
- Training development team: Nancy Deal, Marcia Degen, Gary Hawkins, Sara Heger, Andy Lazur, Bruce Lesikar, and Mary Lusk
- Stakeholder review group – each project has 40-60 professionals reviewing and commenting on the materials

# #1 - O&M Training Materials



**Objective** - Workforce development related to O&M of OWTS



**Audience** – OWTS professionals



**Approach** – Checklist as tools with presentations and activities related to various components

# Residential Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems:

An Operation and Maintenance Service Provider Program

Photo: Canadian Septic

## OWTS Operation and Maintenance Training Materials

- Initially developed in 2008
- Updating of materials to reflect new technologies, approaches and troubleshooting
- Past manual available through Midwest Plan Service, updated version is now be available online in PDF format

Third Edition

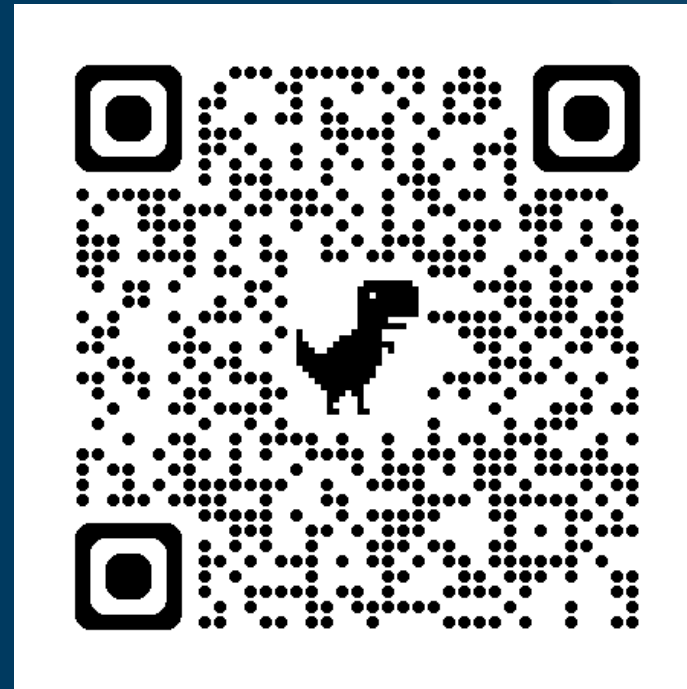
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association

October 2025

# O&M Materials Available

- Training guide
- Agendas
- 30 presentations with detailed speaker notes
- Evaluation questions
- Homework
- Manual with O&M checklists

Access to the materials –  
Google Form



## #2 - Solutions for Difficult Sites Training Materials



**Objective** - Identification of what makes a site difficult and offer viable onsite solutions using a sound decision-making process



**Audience** - design professionals and regulators



**Approach** - Course materials provided an assessment of the challenges and then provides a range of solutions

Training materials available in December of 2025

# #3 – Resolving Wastewater Challenges in Small Communities



**Objective** – assist communities in an effective processes to solve their wastewater needs



**Audience** – small communities with a wastewater challenge along with the consultants who assist them through the process



**Approach:** 13 modules from the Basics of WW treatment to Implementation

Training materials available in January of 2026

# Pilots/Train-the-Trainer

Five completed in Iowa,  
New Hampshire,  
Maryland, Tennessee  
and Washington



# Upcoming Piloting and Train the Trainer Events

## Small Communities

- Indianapolis – January 13-15, 2026
- Tulsa, Oklahoma – April 7-9, 2026

## Operations & Maintenance

- Springfield, Missouri – March 24-26, 2026
- Madison, Wisconsin – April 21-23, 2026

## Difficult Sites

- Bismark, North Dakota – November 3-5, 2025
- Milford, Massachusetts – January 6-8, 2026
- Ribley, West Virginia – March 3-5, 2026
- Griffin, Georgia – March 17-19, 2026

# Event Details

- 2 days of piloting of materials
  - Courses contain more than 2 days of materials
  - Modules developed so the entire course does not need to be given at one time
- 1 day of train-the-trainer
- Visit to training centers when available



# In 2026 Online Training

- O&M and Solutions for Difficult Sites will be recorded and placed online
- Stand alone courses or bundled with local requirements

[pathlms.com/NOWRA](https://pathlms.com/NOWRA)



**The national educational entity for  
the decentralized wastewater industry.**



**The national educational entity for  
the decentralized wastewater industry.**

- High quality learning management system
- Offer quality courses with a broad perspective
- Help train employees
- Approved in many state for continued education

*<https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/>*



The national educational entity for  
the decentralized wastewater industry.

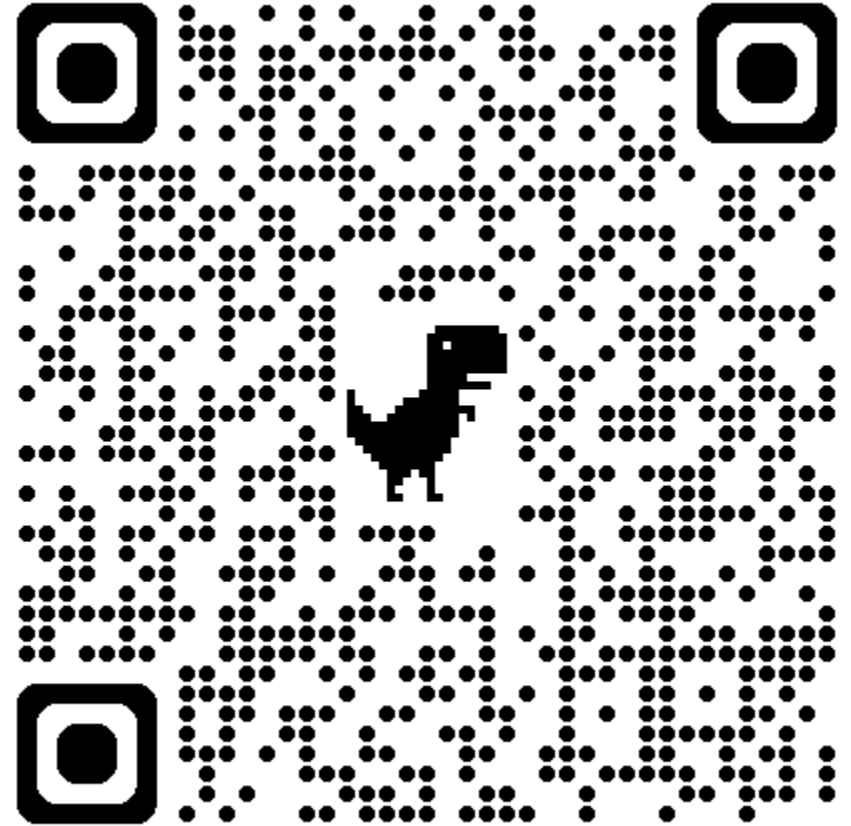
- Over a 100 courses with a wide range of topics
- **FREE** member-only Business & Industry track!

A screenshot of the NOWRA website interface. At the top, there are three buttons labeled "NEHA", "NAWT", and "NOWRA" with the word "or" between "NAWT" and "NOWRA". Below these buttons is a dropdown menu labeled "Select Your State:". The main part of the screenshot is a map of the United States with each state labeled with its two-letter abbreviation. The map is color-coded in shades of blue. On the left and right sides of the map, there are vertical navigation bars with small images and text labels. On the left, the visible labels are "Design" and "T S". On the right, the visible labels are "ses" and "s &amp; ses".

<https://www.pathlms.com/nowra/>

# Summary of Available Resources

- Graphics library – over 100 new and updated graphics
- Training materials – training guides, presentations, activities and evaluations available in an editable format
- Electronic manuals for O&M and Small Community materials
- Google form to signup to get access to materials
- Online courses



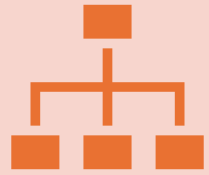
# EPA Grant #3 – Education Material Development and Education



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## #3 EPA Grant (2025-2028)



**College-Level Course** - link decentralized system design, regulation, installation, and management to fundamental engineering, soil science, biology, and water quality concepts



**Updated Glossary** – 2009 CIDWT glossary will be updated and moved into an online searchable database of definitions, images, pictures and videos

## #3 EPA Grant (2025-2028) Cont'd



### **Performance Monitoring and Troubleshooting** –

development of advanced training materials for service providers to support effective life-cycle management through advanced monitoring and troubleshooting via 2 in-person pilots and an online series



**RME Training** – development of training materials related to establishing Responsible Management Entities (RMEs) for decentralized systems via webinars

## #3 EPA Grant (2025-2028) Cont'd



**Tribal Wastewater Training** - develop training materials to improve the knowledge and skills of the Tribal decentralized wastewater treatment system workforce via 4 training events



**Regulatory Professional Training Program** - develop training materials focused on the role of regulatory officials in the decentralized systems industry piloted via 2 in person events and an online training series



**Training and Technical Assistance** - deliver training materials to improve the knowledge and skills of decentralized personnel targeting solutions with identified cesspool impacts via 3 in person events

# NRWA Grant – Technical Assistance and Training

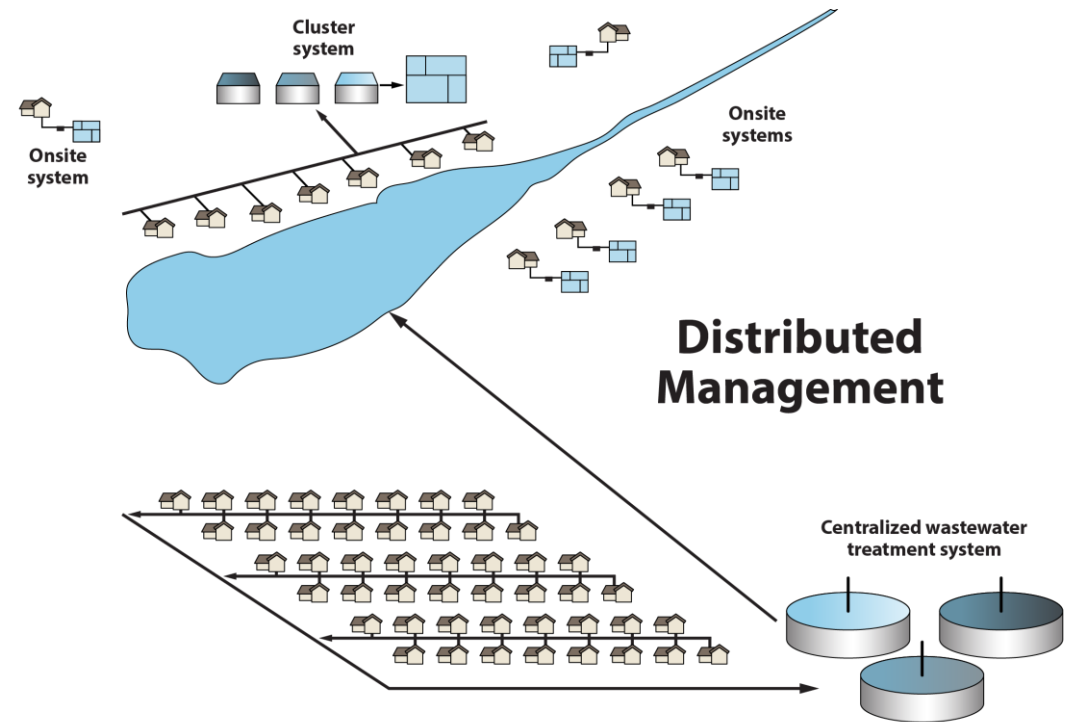


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# National Rural Water Association Grant (2025-2027)

- Assessment Reports – NOWRA will provide technical expertise for assessment reports for 10 small communities across the US
  - NOWRA will work with affiliates and members to be the boots on the ground
- Train-the-Trainer Session – NOWRA will provide comprehensive training for NOWRA field staff on providing training and technical assistance (T/TA) to decentralized wastewater treatment systems



# Future Grant Opportunities

- NOWRA is actively looking for opportunities to get additional grant dollars
- Current opportunity is for a grant directly to NOWRA to provide T/TA
  - Resources would be provided to affiliates to do the technical assistance



# Questions, Comments or Want to Get Involved?!



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