



Onsite Wastewater Treatment is Here to Stay: NOWRA is Here to Help You

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According to the EPA, 25 percent of all households – and more than 40 percent of new homes – are served by onsite wastewater treatment. These decentralized systems are a cost-effective, environmentally sound way to deliver wastewater treatment services to homes and businesses in areas challenged by rapid growth, economic issues, or problems of terrain and climate. Unlike conventional centralized wastewater treatment, in which treated effluent is released to surface waters, onsite treatment returns treated effluent to the soil, where it recharges vital water resources.

Decentralized systems offer many benefits to communities. Onsite treatment technologies can serve virtually any site, regardless of terrain or soil type. For communities, decentralized systems are a smart growth management tool, integrating with watershed management plans and implementing sustainable development strategies. Communities can provide services to their growing population without having to make a substantial public investment in advance of growth.

Although onsite technologies make these benefits possible, management is the key to a safe and sustainable wastewater treatment infrastructure. With scientifically sound treatment standards, a thoughtful permitting and enforcement structure, and with industry-trained service providers, communities can rely on onsite treatment technologies to meet their needs.

How Does NOWRA Help?

Providing Education and Training to ensure that best practices are used in the design, installation, and maintenance of decentralized treatment systems.

Advocating Performance Requirements via the Model Code to advance the principle that standards for decentralized treatment systems must be specific and measurable to allow credible compliance monitoring.

Promoting System Management to emphasize the importance of monitoring and maintenance of decentralized systems.

Disseminating Information among members, homeowners, national organizations, agencies, and governments to facilitate water quality protection.

Offering National and Statewide Conferences where you can connect with wastewater industry leaders and like-minded organizations and learn about the state of the art

Collaborating with Your Group: NOWRA works with many other associations on the state and national level to educate lawmakers and the public about wastewater technologies.

Contact NOWRA today and learn how we can help you!



NOWRA's Accomplishments

- Produced in 1997 "A Strategic Framework for the Unsewered Wastewater Infrastructure," which continues to serve as the national model for the advancement of the decentralized industry.
- Annually conducts a national technical education program and professional business exposition – and, in 2007, an international conference with co-sponsorship from the International Water Association and Water Environment Research Foundation.
- Completed a four-year endeavor with volunteer resources from all sectors of the industry to produce the first version of a national "Model Code Framework for the Decentralized Wastewater Infrastructure" promoting standardization and performance based systems.
- Participates with other industry organizations in Partners in Implementing EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Program – a unified group that pursues measures advancing decentralized systems in order to achieve water quality goals.
- Established partnerships with other national organizations, such as the National Ground Water Association, the Water Quality Association, and the National Association of Home Builders Research Center, to advance the integration of decentralized systems through research and education.
- Actively works with other national water quality organizations to educate and inform congressional members and regulatory officials about the role of decentralized systems within the nation's wastewater infrastructure.
- Publishes policy statements, positions and procedures for decentralized systems that now include the "National Guidance for the Design of Wastewater Drip Dispersal Systems."
- Created SepticLocator.com to help homeowners and businesses find NOWRA members to provide septic and onsite services and products.
- Established the NOWRA Institutes of Learning, which offers education and training programs for the decentralized wastewater industry with national standards of consistency, quality and documentation.
- Publishes a quarterly publication, the Onsite Journal, that is distributed to members and policy officials throughout North America