



Advice Worth Drinking (Your Water, Your Decision):

How today's land-use decisions can protect
tomorrow's water supply





Introduction

- Advice Worth Drinking (Your Water, Your Decision): How today's land-use decisions can protect tomorrow's water supply – A PLANNER'S GUIDE
 - Prepared by the Source Water Collaborative (SWC) - a coalition of 27 national organizations united to protect our drinking water supply sources
 - American Planning Association (APA) – led the development of the Guide
 - Available at <http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/guide-for-land-use-planners/>



Introduction

- Vision of SWC – All drinking water sources are adequately protected. As a result, the nation gains profound public health advantages as well as economic benefits.
- Recognizing the direct link between land and water –constituents in water originate from land.
- In the age of specialization, our focuses on specific issues become narrow.
- Need to recognize the linkages between land use and water quality – cross disciplines.



Putting Drinking Water into the Planning Process

- Integrate source water protection into planning activities:
 - Provide sustainable water source because of reduced treatment needs and increased availability
 - Offer increased public health protection from toxic chemicals and disease causing pathogens
 - Need collaboration among partners, such as water system operators, land use planners, land owners, watershed organizations, and regulators



Strategic Point of Intervention

- LONG RANGE VISIONING - goal setting and characterization of source water
- PLAN MAKING - master or general plans, sub-area plans, and functional plans
- REGULATIONS/INCENTIVES - implementing plans (e.g., zoning ordinances, transfer of development rights, and others)
- DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW - identification and mitigation of problems
- PUBLIC INVESTMENT - with an eye on safeguarding water quality to protect investments



Selected Resources

- General Resources
 - Source Water Collaborative: Resources, tools, case studies and links to practitioners.
 - American Water Works Association: Resource community for the drinking water industry compiling the latest science, guidance, and tools for Source Water Protection.
 - EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water: Information on source water assessments, protection efforts, partnerships, outreach, and other tools to protect sources of drinking water.



Selected Resources

- Smart Growth
 - Smart Growth Network: A coalition of developers, planners, government officials, community groups and other stakeholders.
 - EPA Smart Growth Program: Information on “smart growth” policies, funding sources, networking opportunities, technical tools and resources.



Selected Resources

- Training and Education
 - Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO): Education for local officials on land use and natural resource protection.
 - Center for Watershed Protection: Information on watershed protection, training, and low impact development techniques.
 - EPA Water Training: Water protection training courses, modules, and workshops.



Selected Resources

- Water Resources/Protection Planning & Design
 - Low Impact Development Center
 - Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN): Environmental management, planning, and regulatory information for local government officials.
 - EPA National Menu on Stormwater Best Management Practices: Guidance on developing a Phase II stormwater program along with a list of best management practices to mitigate runoff pollution.



Selected Resources

- Funding Information and Tools
 - Environmental Finance Center Network: A Guidebook of Financial Tools.
 - Trust for Public Land: Assistance on planning for and financing land conservation.
 - Source Water Collaborative: How to Collaborate Toolkit funding for source water protection.
 - EPA Guidance on Watershed Funding: Information about sources of funding to practitioners and funders that serve to protect watersheds.
 - Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center: EPA is funding Environmental Finance Centers around the country to provide finance training, technical assistance, and other support to regulated communities.



Selected Resources

- Mapping & Data for Land Use Planning
 - National Association of Counties: Issue brief with case studies, Using GIS Tools to Link Land Use Decisions to Water Resource Protection.
 - USGS Water Resources Maps and Data: Comprehensive national database of water resource maps and data (GIS) available for download.
 - DWMAPS (Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Water): Mapping application for potential sources of contamination to drinking water.
 - EPA WATERS: EPA mapping application providing access to numerous GIS water datasets water.; EPA WATERS in Google Earth.
 - EPA BASINS (Better Assessment Science Integrating Point & Non-point Sources): GIS-based environmental analysis system that assists in watershed management and TMDL development.



Summary

- Drinking water is essential for healthy and vibrant communities
- Relationship between land use and water quality is strong
- Protecting drinking water from its source is good business
- Land-use planners are essential for successful source water protection programs (for the present and the future)



Questions

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