

Vermont Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative

Wastewater Solutions for Burke and Wolcott

Villages form the heart of Vermont's rural communities, but more than 150 villages lack sewer systems, hampering revitalization. To overcome this challenge, a Northern Border Regional Commission (NBRC) grant to the Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) will help identify cost effective wastewater solutions for the villages of Wolcott, East Burke, and West Burke, providing models for other villages throughout Vermont.

What will the project do?

DEC will hire an energetic and highly qualified coordinator to work with each town's wastewater committee to:

- Lead community surveys, outreach, visioning and training
- Work with those experts that DEC will also contract, to conduct scientific studies and preliminary engineering
- Investigate funding and management options

Within three years:

- Burke and Wolcott will have a proposed village wastewater solution and the information necessary to decide on whether to implement it
- State agencies will learn how to improve funding, technical assistance and permitting programs and apply that knowledge to villages across the state

How will the work be funded?

- \$219,213 – NBRC grant (federal funding)
- \$112,000 – Regional Engineering Planning Advance from DEC (state funding)
- Volunteer hours from members of the Burke and Wolcott Wastewater Committees

How can wastewater solutions help?

Besides maintaining the value of village properties, wastewater solutions can help promote:

- Business expansion
- Redevelopment of underused and abandoned properties
- Housing options
- Community gathering places
- Public health and water quality benefits

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Types of Wastewater Solutions

In general, new village wastewater solutions are decentralized and involve in-ground disposal systems (leach fields). Projects can range in size from serving just one property to connecting a whole village,

Funding for design and construction may also be decentralized, with solutions implemented through a variety of means to reduce costs:

- State and federal infrastructure grants and loans
- Local bonds
- Coordinating with construction projects (housing, public buildings, business expansion etc.) to address the new wastewater needs along with the existing village needs.
- Funds to replace individual systems can be applied to a community system instead

Village Wastewater Solutions Initiative Partners

[Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\)](#)

[Department of Housing and Community Development \(DHCD\)](#)

[Department of Health \(VDH\)](#)

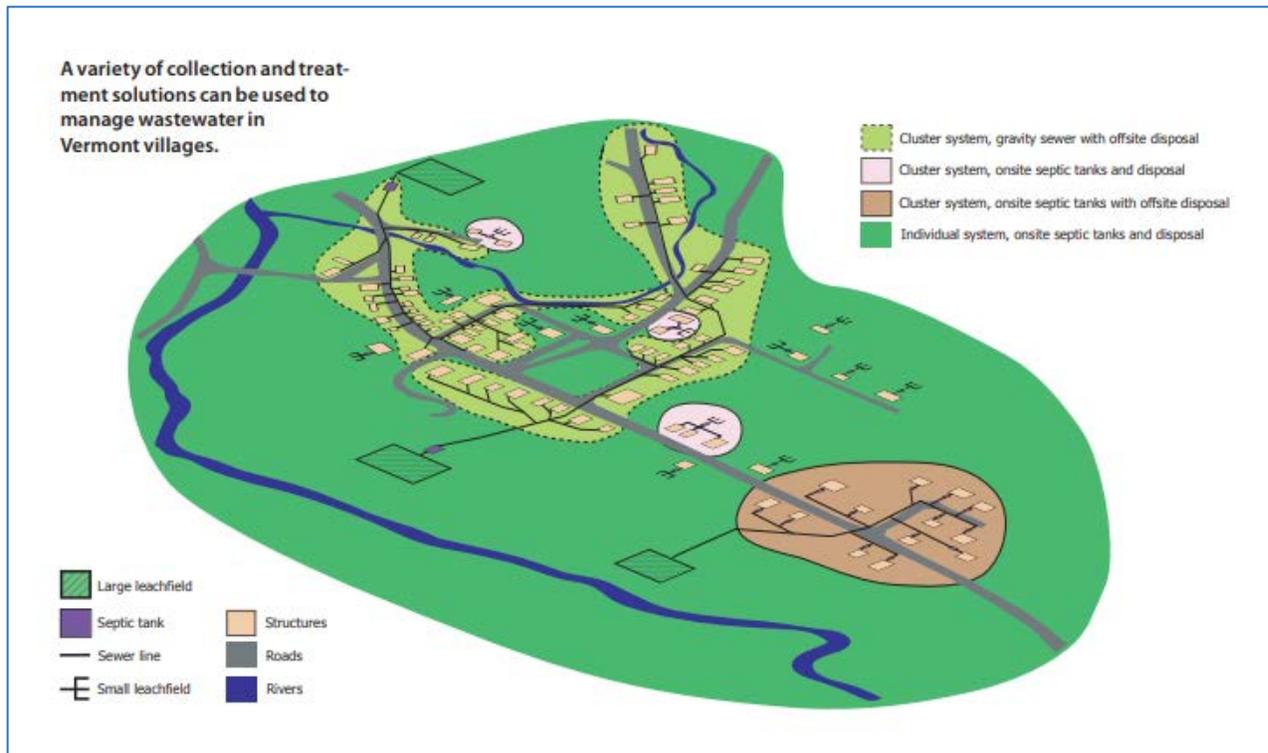
[Regional Planning Commissions](#)

[R-CAP Solutions](#)

[US Department of Agriculture – Rural Development \(USDA-RD\)](#)

[Rural Water Associations \(RWA\)](#)

DECENTRALIZED WASTEWATER SOLUTIONS



VERMONT COMMUNITY EXAMPLES



ROCHESTER invested in a soil-based wastewater disposal field in the town green that supports businesses and homes in the village center.

WAITSFIELD started by installing a drinking water supply system serving Waitsfield Village and Irasville. Next they identified the pockets of soil in and around the villages that were suitable for wastewater disposal and worked with the landowners to make those areas available for use by village businesses and properties.

WARREN created a large community disposal area at the elementary school and two smaller shared systems to serve the village area. There remain a number of individual systems in the village that did not need to be replaced.