



MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT

1800 Washington Boulevard • Baltimore MD 21230
410-537-3000 • 1-800-633-6101 • www.mde.state.md.us

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Robert M. Summers, Ph.D.
Secretary

Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor

NOTICE: Maryland Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

Section 205(a) and Section 516 (b)(1) of the Federal Clean Water Act (CWA) requires that a Clean Watershed Need Survey (CWNS) be completed every four years. The CWNS is a comprehensive assessment of the capital needs to meet the water quality goals set in the CWA. The task of the survey is to identify capital needs for restoration of stream water quality, the preservation of natural water resources and the protection of public health for each state.

The 2012 CWNS requires identification, documentation and associated costs of specific projects in two main categories of the clean water projects, eligible for low interest loans through the State Revolving Fund (SRF):

- (1) Potential point source pollution control projects such as: (i) improvement of wastewater collection systems and treatment works; and (ii) alleviation of sanitary sewer and/or combined sewer overflows; and
- (2) Potential non-point source pollution control projects such as: (i) curtailment of groundwater contamination attributable to the malfunction of the decentralized on-site wastewater disposal system, (ii) stormwater best management practices (both traditional and green), and (iii) restoration of streams and creeks.

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) is seeking your assistance with the 2012 CWNS by providing authoritative documents and associated costs of the identified prospective clean water capital projects that address water quality and public health in your community.

Under the Title VI of the CWA, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) shall report the results of 2012 CWNS to the U.S. Congress for future funding appropriations through the established SRF Program.

MDE will use the appropriated SRF allotment to provide financial assistance to municipalities and communities, such as yours, for projects that will improve the quality of the Maryland waters, including the Chesapeake Bay and its tributary basin, and that will protect public health of Maryland citizens in general.

It is essential that the 2012 CWNS accurately identifies your needs to help ensure Maryland receives a fair share of federal funding, which in turn will be used to provide low interest loans for clean water projects in your community.

Your assistance in providing the required information for the 2012 CWNS is of the utmost importance in achieving our mutual goal of adequate capital funding of needed projects. MDE has contracted with the Maryland Center for Environmental Training (MCET) of the College of Southern Maryland (CSM) and their subcontractor LimnoTech to document the needs and to complete the task for Maryland.

MCET will conduct the data collection from communities with a population of 10,000 or less and LimnoTech will conduct the data collection from communities with a population greater than 10,000; the appropriate representative will contact you sometime in the next few weeks to discuss collecting the information, and, in some cases, making an appointment for a site visit. This representative will discuss details of the need survey with you and/or your authorized personnel, review available documents of the planned capital improvement projects, and conduct brief interview with principal manager and authorized administrative official. These interviews will typically be done over the telephone; however, in some cases, the representative may request a site visit and an on-site meeting to discuss the data.

It takes concerted efforts of all parties involved to successfully complete the 2012 CWNS and ensure that Maryland receives its fair share of federal funding. If you have any question, please contact Ms. Elaine Dietz (Lead, Capital Program Planning Unit) at edietz@mde.state.md.us or call (410) 537-3908. We appreciate your efforts and assistance with 2012 CWNS.

Sincerely,
Jag Khuman, Director
Maryland Water Quality Financing Administration