

House Energy and Environment Committee

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Local Government Perspectives and Roles in Protecting Oregon's Water Quality

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Who We Are...

- > Private Non-Profit
- > Formed in 1987
- > Our Members:
 - Over 120 public wastewater treatment & stormwater management agencies
 - Associate members (consultants)
- > Partnership with LOC, SDAO, and AOC for broad statewide representation and support

Our Mission...

Protect & enhance Oregon's water quality

www.oracwa.org "Oregon ACWA"



What We Do...

Collective of statewide local government agencies works to protect and enhance water quality by:

- **Focusing on watershed-based approaches that achieve multiple environmental objectives and maximize the benefits of public investments**
- **Pursuing science-based, proactive and innovative solutions that are sustainable for utilities, communities and the environment**
- **Working collaboratively to ensure that standards and regulations are implementable and achieve intended environmental outcomes**

How We Work...

Professional Volunteers/Board

Committees:

- **Biosolids & Recycled Water**
- Education
- Energy
- **Groundwater**
- Legal
- Legislative
- **Pretreatment**
- **Stormwater**
- **Water Quality**
- Utility Management



Local Government Roles & Responsibilities for Protecting WQ:

We exist to protect the public health, safety and the environment—WQ is a big part of that!

- **Local stewardship through operations, community programs & partnerships, and regulations**
- **Support community WQ and watershed protection through funding, technical expertise, public education and outreach**
- **Implement Federal and State WQ programs through permits, water quality management plans, etc.—We are DEQ's local partners in WQ protection**

Local Government WQ Protection Programs

- Wastewater Management
- Stormwater Management
- Drinking Water Protection
- Floodplain and Riparian Zone Management
- Wetland Management
- Land Planning and Development
- Environmental (WQ) Education and Outreach
- Fire and Life Safety/First Responders
- Operations Management (Best Practices)
- Partnerships with Watershed Councils, SWCDs, Schools, etc.

Wastewater Management--POTWs

- Water Quality Standards set by DEQ
- Operate under NPDES wastewater permits
- Permit Requirements:
 - Effluent limits
 - Sampling/reporting
 - Duty to operate 24/7, effectively
 - Maintain collection system/prevent SSOs
 - Maintain adequate capacity
 - Industrial pretreatment/pollution prevention
 - Biosolids management

Wastewater Management—What We Really Do...

- Resource recovery centers-biosolids, recycled water



Energy Neutral—Reduced Climate Impacts

- City of Gresham achieves Net Zero energy use



Pollution Prevention—Toxics Reduction



Watershed Based Solutions



Stormwater Management—MS4 and TMDLs

- **CWA Stormwater NPDES Permits Issued by DEQ**
 - Phase I—population > 100,000 since mid-1990s
 - Phase II—population > 50,000 since 2000s
 - Plus some very small communities & DMAs
- **Primary Requirements:**
 - Illicit discharge detection elimination
 - Construction site runoff management
 - Public education and outreach
 - Post construction stormwater management
 - Pollution prevention in municipal operations
 - Public involvement and participation

Stormwater Management—What We Really Do...



Local Governments—Partnering with the State to protect water quality

- Achieving real water quality improvements and restoration of beneficial uses requires state and local partnerships to succeed
- DEQ WQ programs must be adequately funded—balanced, integrated programs are needed to establish TMDLs, WQ standards, and compliance pathways to achieve WQ targets
- The State needs to recognize growing affordability issues in public water-related utility services and balance local and state funding requirements

Sustaining Oregon's water resources and communities in the long term will require state and local government water quality and watershed professionals to work together, tapping the best and brightest, to develop regulatory and funding frameworks and implementation strategies that improve watershed health, facilitate resource recovery, and optimize overall environmental benefits and cost-effectiveness for local communities across the state.



For More Information:

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