

DEQ's Clean Watersheds Needs Survey



State of Oregon
Department of
Environmental
Quality

**Water Quality Division
Clean Water State
Revolving Fund
Headquarters**

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www.deq.state.or.us/wq/loans/loans.htm

What is the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey?

This survey is a comprehensive assessment of capital needs to meet Oregon's water quality goals and the Clean Water Act. Needs are defined as a water quality improvement project's unfunded capital costs that address an existing or projected (within next 20 years) water quality or public health problem. Every four years the states and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency collect information about publicly owned wastewater collection and treatment facilities, stormwater and combined sewer overflow control facilities, nonpoint source pollution control projects, decentralized wastewater management projects, and estuary management projects.

Why is the survey important?

States are required to report their needs to EPA, which uses the data to document national needs in a report to Congress. This report provides Congress and state legislatures with information to assist in budget decisions. DEQ also uses this data to:

- Assist in identifying communities that need technical and financial assistance
- Help measure statewide environmental progress
- Provide information to the public

The survey also supports EPA's Office of Water Sustainable Water Infrastructure Initiative by:

- Encouraging advanced asset management
- Collecting current and complete treatment technology data
- Providing data to encourage and inform watershed approaches to water quality protection

In 2008, DEQ documented needs in Oregon totaling \$4.9 billion. This was a 40 percent increase from the \$3.5 billion in needs documented in 2004.

What information is needed for the survey?

DEQ relies on a variety of resources, including community stakeholders, to provide information about their needs and technical information for their facilities and projects. Some of the information requested is:

- Description of the water quality or related public health problem
- Documentation detailing the problem, proposed solution and estimated cost to address the problem
- Location and contact information for facilities and projects
- Wastewater facility population served, flow, effluent characterization and unit process information

2012 Clean Watersheds Needs schedule

DEQ is working with communities and stakeholders to collect information needed for the 2012 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey. DEQ has until October 2012 to obtain this data. EPA will review the data and will prepare its needs report to Congress in 2013, making the data publicly available.

How you can participate

DEQ's Clean Water State Revolving Fund loan program staff can assist you and answer questions you may have about the survey.

Oregon's needs survey coordinator

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Small Community Technical Assistance

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Information on the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey also available from EPA's website:
<http://water.epa.gov/scitech/datait/databases/cwns/index.cfm>

Alternative formats

Alternative formats of this document (Braille, large type) can be made available. Contact DEQ's Office of Communications & Outreach, Portland, for more information at 503-229-5696. Hearing-impaired persons may call 711.