

What's your Safe Water Strategy?

A campaign to protect America's sources of drinking water

Every day, Americans tap into a bit of under-appreciated magic: Twist the faucet and out flows water one can drink. What's often missing, however, are local plans to protect this resource. Here's what's needed now.

Communities across the country recently assessed their sources of drinking water under a requirement of the Safe Drinking Water Act. But too many went no further. Most have yet to develop comprehensive plans to protect these lakes, rivers, streams and aquifers. Even fewer have implemented such plans.

Now, fifteen leading organizations, united as the Source Water Collaborative, are helping communities take that next step. Below is a glimpse of what can be done.

How far along is your community's Source Water Strategy?

Assess 95% complete	A locality conducts a source water assessment	<u>Assessments should:</u> - Delineate protection area - Develop potential contamination Inventory - Susceptibility determination - Release findings
Plan 38% complete	A locality creates a comprehensive source water protection plan	<u>The plan should include:</u> • Strategies for managing threats and protecting resources • A combination of voluntary and regulatory strategies • A long-term vision, short-term strategies, and measurable goals. • A strategy for how to fund the activities in the plan
Act 20% complete	Based on the plan, a locality implements a comprehensive set of source water protection strategies	<u>Actions to protect drinking water sources include:</u> • Integrating source water information into land-use regulations and planning systems. • Acquiring land used for water recharge or well heads; • Developing funding to pay for protection efforts; • Encouraging land stewardship behaviors • Developing land use regulations that: ✓ Contain or prevent contaminants from reaching drinking water sources; ✓ Promote development patterns that limit threats to drinking water sources; and ✓ Match uses of land with locations least likely to affect drinking water sources.

About the Source Water Collaborative

United to Protect America's Sources of Drinking Water

Fifteen organizations are working together as the Source Water Collaborative to build a consensus around how to help communities protect sources of drinking water. The group meets quarterly. Details about the Collaborative can be found at www.protectdrinkingwater.org.