

# Clean Watersheds Needs Survey 2012

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The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), in partnership with the States, conducts the Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) to identify and document the cost of the capital needs required to meet the water quality and water-related public health goals of the Clean Water Act. The CWNS is required under section 205(a) of the Clean Water Act and section 516(b) of the Water Quality Act of 1987, which amended the Clean Water Act.

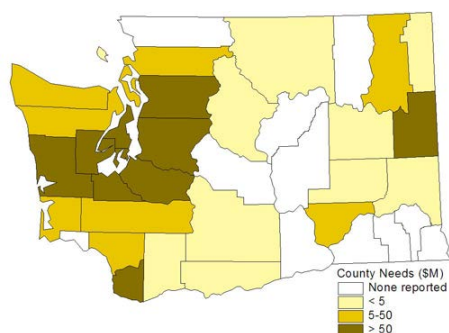


Every four years, the States and EPA collect information about publicly owned wastewater treatments and collection facilities; combined sewer overflow (CSO) control facilities; stormwater management facilities; nonpoint source (NPS) pollution control projects; and decentralized wastewater treatment facilities. The information collected about these facilities and projects includes estimated needs, costs and technical information; location and contact information; facility population served, flow, effluent, and unit process information; and NPS best management practices (BMPs).

## Washington CWNS 2012

The survey is an opportunity to let Congress and the State Legislature know the financial and technical needs of our state. This is your chance to get your community's projects included in the survey.

In order to make the CWNS 2012 a comprehensive look at Washington's needs we need your input and assistance. While taking part in this survey is voluntary, it can have a big impact for local governments and our state. The results of the survey can influence the amount of money Washington receives from the federal government to fund clean water projects statewide.



*In 2008, Washington documented needs totaling \$5.3 billion! This was a 12 percent increase from the \$4.7 billion in needs documented in 2004.*

## Data Collection

Over the coming months, Ecology will be working with local governments and tribes to collect information needed for the survey. Survey data is often collected from readily available documents such as facility plans, capital improvements plans, comprehensive sewer plans, permits, grant and loan applications, or other planning documents.

For the CWNS 2012, Ecology is going to focus on data collection for:

- Wastewater facilities
- Stormwater needs
- Decentralized wastewater facilities
- Small Community Needs

## Frequently Asked Questions

### ✓ **What is a Need?**

The unfunded capital costs -- as of January 1, 2012 -- of a project that addresses an existing or projected (within next 20 years) water quality or water quality related public health problem

### ✓ **Why is CWNS important?**

This information is used by EPA to document national needs in a Report to Congress. The Report provides Congress, as well as state legislatures, with information inform budget decisions.

The data is also used to:

- Assist state governments to identify communities that need technical and financial assistance
- Inform local and state governments to implement water quality programs
- Help to measure statewide and nationwide environmental progress
- Contribute to academic research
- Provide information to the public

### ✓ **What information is collected?**

Information collected about facilities and projects includes:

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

✓ **What types of documents are used?**

Documents that are commonly used to detail needs and costs:

- Capital Improvement Plans (CIP)
- Unfunded State and Federal Loan and Grant Applications
- Facility Plans
- Preliminary Engineer's Estimates
- Final Engineer's Estimates
- State-Approved Area-wide or Regional Basin Plans
- Sanitary Surveys
- Watershed-based Plans

Complete list of accepted documents is available from the CWNS Coordinator.

✓ **How can I get my communities projects in the survey?**

Call or e-mail the CWNS Coordinator. Documents can be submitted by e-mail ([jessica.moore@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:jessica.moore@ecy.wa.gov)), fax (360.407.7151), or postal mail (Department of Ecology, Water Quality Program, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, Washington 98504-7600).

## Contact Information

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## Additional Information

EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey: <http://www.epa.gov/cwns>

Ecology's Water Quality Program Financial Management:  
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/funding/funding.html>

Ecology's Grant and Loan Listserv: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/maillist.html>

