

EPA's State Model Program and a Proposal to Share Third Party Data among States

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- **State Model Program for Onsites**
 - Highlights of Model Program
 - Follow up activities
- **Other Related EPA Efforts**
 - SepticSmart
 - Management Case Studies
 - Small Systems Guidebook
 - MOU Partnership
- **Data Sharing**
 - White paper
 - Current focus and Issues
 - Next steps

- Background
 - In June 2013, EPA published a technical assistance manual for onsite systems that states can use to augment existing programs and support nitrogen reduction
 - Recommendations on treatment levels are based on current loading, distance to the Bay and its tidal waters, state WIPs, and available technology
 - States can use the 'Onsite Model Program' as one way of many to assist in meeting TMDL allocations
 - The 'Onsite Model Program' recognizes that onsite nitrogen management plans vary by state; Headwater states have different onsite system goals

- **Highlights**

- Built using previously published guidance that is well established in the industry, current research and successful case studies and practices
- Checklist walks reader through the document with supporting appendices
- Recommendations can be used all or in part

State Model Program

- **EPA Activities Going Forward**
 - Tracking of states' progress through WIP annual reporting from the states to the CBPO
 - Outreach to states on recommendations and support for implementation
 - Data exchange
 - Other support?
 - Coordination with CBP efforts, i.e., Wastewater Workgroup





Sam Says:
“Do Your Part, Be SepticSmart”



septicSMARTTM

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

www.epa.gov/septicSMART

SepticSmart

- Online national outreach program designed to promote proper septic system care and maintenance by homeowners
 - launched by EPA on Nov. 15, 2012
 - working through the Decentralized MOU Partnership
 - provides local stakeholders with homeowner-targeted materials/strategies that will support and compliment their own outreach efforts
 - materials are web-based and available for downloading and printing in English and Spanish
 - SepticSmart Week – Sept. 23-27th

SepticSmart Door Hanger

- [English Version \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)
- [Spanish Version \(PDF\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)
- [Recommended Print Specs \(PDF\)](#) (1 pg, 846K)
- [English Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)
- [Spanish Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1.1MB)



Print directions: Many cost-effective printing solutions are available online for printing these door hanger files.

The above files have been designed to accommodate the unique die-cuts for the doorknob punch out offered by these online solutions.

"Did You Know? Leaks" Postcard

- [Recommended Print Specs \(PDF\)](#) (1 pg, 2.8MB)
- [English Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)
- [Spanish Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)



Print directions: Provide these files to a local print shop or a professional printer near you. Create mailing labels, add postage, and you are ready to mail to local homeowners.

"Summer Fun" Postcard

- [Recommended Print Specs \(PDF\)](#) (1 pg, 2.8MB)
- [English Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)
- [Spanish Version \(PDF\) \(Print-Ready Version\)](#) (2 pp, 1MB)



- **Examples of how small communities implement decentralized management programs**

<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/demos.cfm>

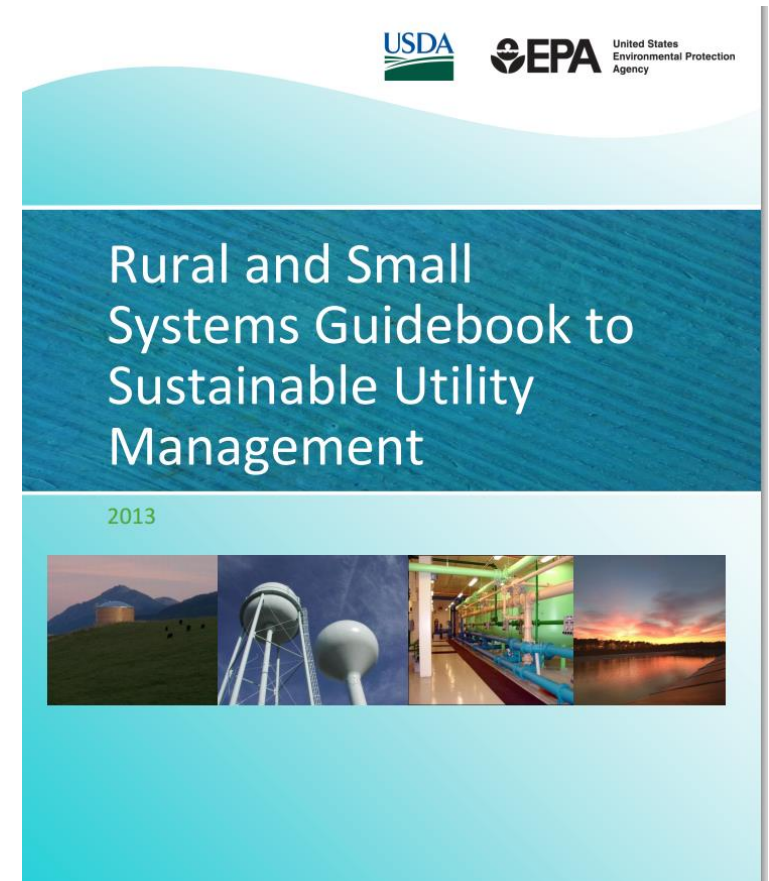


The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/upload/Decentralized-Case-Study_Jamestown-RI-2.pdf. The page content includes:

- Decentralized Wastewater Management Case Studies** (header)
- JAMESTOWN, RHODE ISLAND** (main title)
- PROBLEM**: Jamestown is a small, island town dependent on private drinking water wells and individual wastewater systems. Poorly maintained onsite wastewater systems on undersized lots with high seasonal water tables were affecting groundwater quality. Studies revealed that 32% of the wastewater treatment systems in the area were contributing to nutrient and pathogen problems in private water wells (Legislative Press and Public Information Bureau, 2006).
- SOLUTION**: Jamestown adopted an ordinance requiring routine inspections of individual wastewater systems. A High Groundwater Table District also guides future development to protect drinking water quality.
- CONTACT**:
 - Town of Jamestown
 - 44 Southwest Avenue
 - Jamestown, RI 02835
 - www.jamestownri.net
 - Justin Jobin
 - p: (401) 423-7193
 - e: justin@justinjobin.com
- OVERVIEW**: Jamestown is located on a small island situated in the middle of Narragansett Bay in Rhode Island. It is approximately nine miles long and one mile wide. Est. Population: 5,400.
- RESULTS**:
 - To date, 94% of all septic systems have had an initial maintenance inspection.

Sustainable Management of Small and Rural Systems

- **EPA and USDA initiative:**
 - A **Small Systems Guidebook** to help small utilities identify their most important challenges, assess the effectiveness of their operations and learn about resources that can help improve their performance
 - Promotes effective utility management (EUM) for small utilities
 - <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/sustain/watereum.cfm>



- **Decentralized MOU Partnership**
 - Position papers
 - Webcast series
 - Collaborative efforts on emerging issues and on education/outreach
- **Tools for Choosing Appropriate Infrastructure**
- **Model Business Plan for RMEs**
 - Assist with applying for SRF funds

Data Sharing

- **Can we agree upon a set of data sharing protocols that states can use to review and approve alternative technologies?**
- **Whitepaper evaluates the issues with moving this process forward.**

- **The Concept Formerly Known as Reciprocity.....**
- **Reciprocity – The Term That Shan't Be Named....**
- **In other words - the focus is on collaboration to improve data sharing protocols.**

How Did This Start Again?

- **The value of data sharing was highlighted during development of the Chesapeake Bay Model Program – Has value across the country.**
- **Preliminary Discussions with Chesapeake Bay States, SORA and NOWRA have gone well.**
- **Whitepaper developed to promote further discussion.**

- **Effluent Treatment Technologies
(Treatment in a Box)**
Or
- **Soil Treatment and Dispersal
Technologies?**

- **Current Focus on Treatment Technologies.**

- **Test Centers vs. Field Testing**
- **Testing Protocols**
 - Frequency and Duration
 - Selection of Sampling Parameters
- **Interstate Collaboration Processes**
- **Soil and Climate Considerations**
- **Oversight of Testing Facilities/Programs**
- **Long Term Management of the Process**

Next Steps

- **How do we move forward with data sharing between the Chesapeake states?**
 - Who can lead the effort?
 - What next steps are needed?
- **What are the next steps on the national level?**

Questions?

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<http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/septic/>