



Enabling Source Water Protection: Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Programs

A Joint Project of The Trust for Public Land
and The Smart Growth Leadership Institute

*in partnership with
The Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and River Network
funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Coalition Seeks Innovative States

Under a grant from the US Environmental Protection Agency, The Trust for Public Land and the Smart Growth Leadership Institute, in partnership with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators and the River Network, will select several states as partners for a program focused on *Enabling Source Water Protection: Aligning State Land Use and Water Protection Program*. We are looking for states that can lead the country in developing and showcasing innovative ways to protect drinking water sources through improved coordination among state land use management and water protection programs.

By working with state program managers, recognized national experts in land use, land conservation, and water quality protection, the program aims to help states work across political and programmatic boundaries to better align planning, economic development, regulation and conservation to protect drinking water sources at the local and watershed levels. Protecting drinking water sources through better land use management requires strong collaboration between all levels of government and all concerned stakeholders. Working together would maximize the effectiveness of initiatives taken by land use planners, water utilities, watershed associations, government officials, conservationists, farmers and foresters.

State programs often influence decisions at the local or watershed level. Unfortunately, even the most efficient state administrators may suffer from the disconnect between state programs and policies. Some well-intentioned policies can work at cross-purposes that hinder local initiatives to protect water resources. This program will encourage more effective collaboration among various stakeholders and better congruence between various state policies and programs to enhance source water protection.

Benefits to States

- Consultations with experts on innovative practices from around the country.
- Exposure to other state examples and strategies.
- Recommendations based on state-specific program reviews.
- Strategies for improving funding for water protection.
- A support network—both within and outside of government—for implementation.
- A modest amount of financial support to initiate implementation activities.

This program has a two-step application and selection process to choose the partner states.

Expression of Interest:

Interested parties within states should submit the two-page *Expression of Interest* form available for download at www.landuseandwater.org. Please submit the completed form by email to Amy Paige Condon with The Trust for Public Land at amy.condon@tpl.org on or before close of business your time December 19, 2008.

Any state agency may submit the form. Submissions may come from the Governor's office and/or state level departments related to environmental protection, public health, natural resources, or planning and growth management.

Because this announcement is being distributed by several national organizations related to land use, water protection and natural resources, there may be other agencies or organizations in your state that also will be interested in this project. We would prefer (but do not require) the coordination of efforts within a state into a single *Expression of Interest* submission. Should we receive more than one *Expression of Interest* from a state, we will contact all submitters and request that you work together to submit a joint *Expression of Interest* within one week of notification.

State agencies may also want to coordinate their submission with watershed groups, state smart growth or growth management organizations, extension agencies, and other non-profit organizations working on source water. Organizations outside state government should coordinate with state officials to apply.

Formal Application:

We will review all expressions of interest and select the states that offer the strongest commitment to the project and most potential for undertaking cross-program analysis (see critical criteria posted at www.landuseandwater.org). Please make sure that the key contact for the project is available during the week of January 5, 2009, to respond to questions and requests for additional information to help us in our deliberations. Up to five (5) states will be asked to submit a more detailed, formal application, which is due by February 20, 2009. We will select two partner states in this year, and expect to announce the selections by March 18, 2009.

For more information, please visit www.landuseandwater.org or contact Amy Paige Condon with The Trust for Public Land at amy.condon@tpl.org or (305)-667-0409, ext. 14.

Partnering Organizations

The **Trust for Public Land (TPL)** is a private non-profit organization that works nationwide to conserve land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens, and other natural places, ensuring livable communities for generations to come. Since 1972, TPL has completed more than 3,000 conservation transactions in 46 states, totaling more than 2 million acres. TPL has helped states and communities craft and pass over 330 ballot measures, generating \$25 billion in new conservation-related funding. With support from EPA in 2002, TPL led the Source Water Stewardship project to build locally based drinking water protection efforts that incorporated land conservation and forest management in four different watersheds. The initial investment of \$396,000 was leveraged to create over \$25 million of public and private dollars.

The **Smart Growth Leadership Institute (SGLI)**, a project of Smart Growth America, was created by former Maryland Governor Parris N. Glendening to help state and local elected, civic and business leaders design and implement effective smart growth strategies. SGLI manages the *Governors' Institute on Community Design* a national, non-partisan program created specifically to assist governors, their cabinet, and top staff as they make investments in their communities and guide growth and development in their states.

The **Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA)** serves the drinking water program administrators in the 50 states, territories, the Navajo Nation, and the District of Columbia. ASDWA supports states in their efforts to protect public health through the assurance of high quality drinking water; assists all state program administrators with information and data; encourages the interchange of experience among state drinking water programs; promotes responsible, reasonable, and feasible drinking water programs at the state and Federal levels; and provides advice, counsel, and expertise to organizations and entities having an interest in drinking water.

River Network is a national nonprofit organization working for clean and healthy waters. River Network is unique among national organizations because it supports grassroots groups working for watershed protection. By providing information, training, consultation and connections, River Network enhances the efforts of many other organizations, whose work, in turn, benefits hundreds of millions of people from coast to coast. The network consists of thousands of organizations, including grassroots watershed associations, statewide conservation groups, large river basin groups, Native American tribes, fishing and boating associations, businesses, state and federal governmental agencies and other national environmental organizations.