

DEC MUNICIPAL TASK FORCE (2015)

Municipalities are critical partners in attaining Vermont’s clean water and phosphorus reduction goals. DEC senior staff began meeting in August 2015 to form a Municipal Task Force, a matrix management group dedicated to bringing forward municipal needs and interests in all of DEC’s programming. By building on DEC’s existing programs, DEC has been able to enhance its municipal offerings with minimal administrative burden.

DEC staff identified four overarching goals for the Municipal Task Force:

1. To provide outreach and education to municipalities regarding TMDL requirements.
2. To help municipalities assess infrastructure needs and costs, with priority given to municipalities most impacted by TMDL requirements.
3. To support and enhance municipalities’ expertise in the operation and maintenance of wastewater, storm water and drinking water systems.
4. To connect municipalities with funding sources managed by DEC.

Goals	Projects
To provide outreach and education to municipalities regarding TMDL requirements.	<p>Completed and Ongoing Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed 2-pp fact sheet for municipalities • Established cleanwater.vt.gov website • Created logo for Clean Water Fund materials • Conducted direct outreach to municipalities on roads • Conducted outreach to RPCs on Vermont Clean Water Act (NWRPC, CCRPC, CVRPC, ACRPC) • DEC staff participated in numerous conferences (VLCT Meeting, RPCs, ACEC, GMWEA, ANR Municipal Day) • NForm Tracking System for outreach • Developed train-the-trainer PowerPoint presentation for RPCs on Clean Water Act & Municipalities. • Established a monthly brown bag lunch series available on webcast.
To help municipalities assess infrastructure needs and costs, with priority given to municipalities most impacted by TMDL requirements.	<p>Completed and Ongoing Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sponsored Asset Management Workshop for municipal drinking water officials with Heather Himmelberger, Director of SW Environmental Finance Center (Montpelier series 9/23, 10/14, 11/17, 12/1) (Rutland series 9/24, 10/13, 11/18, 12/2) • Direct outreach by DEC to municipalities with near-term wastewater treatment facility upgrades under TMDL (Burlington, Shelburne, Richford, Enosburg Falls, et al.) • Direct outreach by DEC to municipalities to locate and map

DEC MUNICIPAL TASK FORCE (2015)

	<p>cross-connections between stormwater and wastewater systems.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecosystem Restoration Program – grants • Upgrade DEC/FED’s loan and grant tracking system to set milestones and create checklists for applicants. <p>Future Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offer asset management workshops specifically for wastewater treatment facility operators • Conduct more direct outreach to municipalities with near-term wastewater treatment facility upgrades under TMDL.
<p>To support and enhance municipalities’ expertise in the operation and maintenance of wastewater, storm water and drinking water systems.</p>	<p>Future Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain additional funding for operator training
<p>To connect municipalities with funding sources managed by DEC</p>	<p>Ongoing Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modernize and simplify the priority point system for water pollution control projects in Title 10 to address today’s water quality and health concerns. • Make municipal affordability a factor in determining grant amounts. • Integrate all types of projects, private and public, point and non-point source, into a single priority system. All projects will be eligible for loans; only municipal projects will be eligible for grants. • Develop 10-year plan for pollution control grant program. <p>Future Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a website page or handout that lists all DEC funding and grant opportunities. • Partner with USDA to leverage more federal loan funds. • Replace Vermont-specific contracts with industry standard. • Adopt “standard details” in AutoCAD for TMDL projects. • Conduct more direct outreach to municipalities with near-term wastewater treatment facility upgrades.