

# 2010 Source Water Protection Programs for Vulnerable Groundwater Systems in Maryland

Maryland Department of the Environment

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

## PROJECT DETAILS

**DIFFICULTY:** Medium

**COST:** \$50,000 - \$75,000

**TIMEFRAME:** Twelve (12) Months

**DELIVERABLES:** A Source Water Protection Plan/Program for 20 Maryland communities

### CORE COMPETENCIES:

- Consensus Building
- Public Outreach and Education
- Inter-Departmental Cooperation
- Community Planning

## PROJECT TEAM

Vision Planning and Consulting  
Advanced Land and Water Inc.

### CLIENT CONTACT

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## PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), is the primary agency responsible for implementation of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Maryland. MDE implements both state and federally mandated regulations, guidelines and activities to protect drinking water.

VPC was selected to assist MDE in developing and implementing local Source Water Protection Programs (SWPPs) for the 20 vulnerable communities in eastern, central, and western regions in Maryland that use groundwater.

### PROJECT SUMMARY

This outreach project for 20 communities involved a technical component (SWPP updates) and public outreach and education component. The focus was on building consensus for SWPPs supported by the individual systems, MDE, the regulated community, and stakeholders representing the regulated community.

VPC played an integral role in the outreach efforts including the facilitation of community workshops and developing a comprehensive strategy for execution and documentation of consensus-building public workshops.

Emphasis was laid on developing a comprehensive approach to obtain the support of elected officials, at both system and County levels. The team served as a liaison between local officials and the public.

Outreach methods included: direct mailings to non-residential property owners in delineated SWAP areas, postings on Town and County web sites, and direct contact with constituency groups including farmers, builders, realtors, environmentalists, etc.

VPC was involved in presenting pros, cons and tangible examples of the successes and challenges of each proscriptive (ordinance-based) or non-proscriptive (public awareness and community outreach) approach.

VPC also provided comment to the 12 individual communities reports that included programs to help protect public health by identifying implementable measures to address existing and potential contaminant threats to groundwater supplies of safe drinking water. The reports were developed to assist the System in developing a more refined and ongoing SWPP, including specific guidance on implementing feasible source protection measures.

Each community report included:

- 1) A background;
- 2) The regulatory framework;
- 3) Supplemental management areas;
- 4) Contamination threats assessment;
- 5) Contaminant susceptibility; and
- 6) Preliminary recommendations to improve overall source water protection.