

**MARYLAND ONSITE WASTEWATER
PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION
STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN
2007 Update**

MOWPA was founded to provide a forum to advance the use of effective onsite wastewater treatment – by developing protocols, education programs and supporting regulatory reform – September 7, 2004.

MISSION STATEMENT

To promote and enhance the use of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal by providing a forum for education, development, and information transfer in order to create viable treatment processes, design, construction, operation, and maintenance capabilities within the industry.

Program Goals

1. Advance the science of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal through the use of mechanical, biological and chemical methods.
2. Promote the Development and implementation of standards for the sufficient evaluation and characterization of the onsite receiving soils and watershed.
3. Promote the development and implementation of standards for the efficient removal of solids, nutrients, organic materials, bacteria, and viruses by advanced wastewater treatment technologies.
4. Develop protocols for the review and approval of onsite wastewater treatment technologies and disposal.
5. Promote the development and implementation of standards for installation, inspections, maintenance and operation of onsite wastewater treatment systems.
6. Provide educational opportunities for regulatory professionals, industry members and the public.
7. Provide a forum for regulatory, public, sales, marketing, service, and policy making representatives to foster the advancement of the effective use of onsite wastewater treatment technologies and disposal.

Program Objectives

1. Provide input and support for advancing regulatory standards for the design, installation, inspection, operation and maintenance of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal systems.
 - a. Initiate and promote statewide requirements for professional certification and continuing education of onsite practitioners for regulation, design, installation operation and maintenance of onsite systems.
 - b. Participate with MDE in the ODS technical workgroup for the implementation of Bay Restoration Fund.
2. Encourage state and local regulatory initiatives that promote the use of onsite wastewater technologies by revising or advancing new regulations and policies.
 - a. Participate with MDE in the ODS technical workgroup to establish a statewide verification program for technologies relating to the performance of onsite wastewater treatment and disposal system components and criteria.
3. Conduct education forums throughout the state for regulatory and policy officials, industry practitioners and the public to advance onsite system technologies and components.
 - a. Address priority issues such as treatment technologies, basic operations and management.
 - b. Conduct issue forums throughout the state on proposed standards and regulations to provide input into the ODS technical work group.
 - c. Develop an approach to work with state and local officials on actions that effectively support inspection procedures of septic and onsite systems.
4. Create subcommittees to promote the goals of MOWPA
 - a. System design and engineering
 - b. Installation
 - c. Operation, Maintenance and Service
 - d. Manufactures, distributors and suppliers
 - e. Communications and Marketing
 - f. Education
 - g. Regulatory policy

2007 Action Plan

1. Initiate education sessions to establish MOWPA's presence and build membership
 - a. Conduct 4 sessions that provide basic education to industry practitioners
 - b. Identify 2008 program sessions
 - c. Conduct 2007 Conference focused on installation

2. Embark upon a strategy to achieve legislative & regulatory requirements for practitioner education, training and certification
 - a. Meet with appropriate regulatory and legislative representatives
 - b. Discussions with established MDE boards offering education and certification for industry practitioners
 - c. Send out information notices and publicity about program plans
 - i. Produce marketing package on program & objectives for use in meetings
 - ii. Post information on website
 - iii. Get local media to run story about organizations work
 - d. Attend legislative pre-session working meetings to educate members about process
 - e. Define board members tasks to assist in building support coalitions
 - i. Plumbing association & board
 - ii. Building industry
 - iii. Contractors association
 - iv. Realtors

3. Pursue Development of Special "Issues" Discussion Forums to address industry barriers
 - o Deed disclosure [what's in your back yard] builders (and their attorney's), realtors, property land records - deeds – tax & assessment] banks and financial institutions – settlement attorneys – land planners
 - o Service contracts [operations & maintenance] – installers pumpers/service providers – master plumbers association
 - o Manufacturers and Equipment standards –
 - o Regulatory update – what's going on
 - o Land Development issues

4. Develop a Communications and Marketing Plan
 - a. Issue press releases profiling member projects and industry activities that facilitate achieving state water quality goals
 - b. Produce member newsletter and promote website for current activities
 - c. Participate in Maryland conferences & events to promote industry technical resources and capabilities

5. Support regulatory agencies with actions identifying onsite industry issues in MD to be addressed.
 - a. Identify location of all existing septic systems in MD, the number of new systems permitted each year; and citations issued for failing systems.
 - b. Define the differences between systems malfunctioning and failing – and those affected by inadequate servicing, maintenance.
 - c. Initiate a proposed action plan and meet with state and local officials on a proposal that effectively supports inspection procedures and consolidates information about septic and onsite systems in Maryland.

MOWPA 2007 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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