

IMPROVING POLLUTION LAW COMPLIANCE

The Shortest Route to Cleaner Water

SAMPLE WORKSHOP AGENDA

Why Pollution Laws Don't Work Without Very Active Public Involvement

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty (and clean water): How we could have achieved the 1972 goal of all waters fishable-swimmable by 1983 and zero discharge by 1985.

Inventorizing A Watershed for Pollution Sources

Compiling what's known:

WaterKeepers, watershed managers, and others

GIS, maps, aerial imagery, etc.

Online databases

Monitoring data

Searching for the unknown:

The windshield survey

Spot monitoring

Stream-shoreline survey

Interviews

How to Report A Specific Pollution Problem So It Quickly Gets Fixed

Most reports do result in compliance

How to determine when a problem should be reported

Taking the anxiety out of reporting a problem

How to make the report

Who to contact

What to say

What to expect

Follow Up: You get what you inspect, not what you expect

What To Do When A Report Doesn't Result in Compliance?

Find out why

Verify the why

Work up the chain of command

Contact oversight enforcement agencies
Ask elected officials to help
Politicize the issue by reaching out to natural allies
Legal action when all else fails

Improving Compliance Throughout a Watershed or Region

Example(s) of successful campaigns
Most compliance issues are easiest to win in a political arena; not the courts
Expanding public support: The key to gaining the political clout critical to success
Tactics for expanding public support
Framing issues so elected officials get the support needed to improve compliance
Putting it all together: Developing an effective campaign strategy

Beyond the Campaign

Using the momentum from issue-oriented campaigns elect responsible candidates to office.
Providing good elected officials with the ongoing support needed to institute good watershed management programs.

Best Practices: What is Most Effective & Reliable

Solutions that sound good but don't work
Best practices that **DO** work: Examples using the top four threats identified through the *Making Pollution Laws Work* survey:
Watershed Growth Management
Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control
Stormwater Management, Low-Impact Development, ESD, etc.
Wetland Impacts & Other Habitat Loss

Questions/Answers and Discussion of Issues of Concern to Workshop Participants

For Further Detail Contact:

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