



IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

# Wastewater News

## Environmental Services

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## DNR initiates the 2022 Clean Watersheds Needs Survey

The Clean Watersheds Needs Survey (CWNS) reviews and documents the wastewater needs and costs in the state to keep Iowa's waters clean and safe. Responses to this survey demonstrate to Congress the financial needs of Iowa's wastewater projects. This survey is federally funded through tax dollars and timely response saves effort and money. The survey timeline is March 1, 2022 through February 28, 2023.

The results of this survey will be used by the Iowa DNR to compile data for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2022 CWNS. Needs, as defined by the EPA, are a project, with associated costs, that addresses a water quality or public health problem existing as of January 1, 2022 or expected to occur within the next 20 years (by December 31, 2041). Examples of potential needs include projects and programs related to wastewater collection and treatment, combined sewer overflows, storm water runoff, and non-point source pollution.

Even if your community does not have needs, timely return of the survey is vital to ensuring that all communities are represented in the overall needs of Iowa's communities. Information submitted will not be used or shared for any purposes other than assessing and planning for Iowa's water quality and public health cost needs.

For more information about the US EPA Clean Watersheds Needs Survey, please visit [www.epa.gov/cwns](http://www.epa.gov/cwns). The Iowa DNR has contracted with Iowa State University to assist with completing the survey. If you have any questions before or during completion of the survey, please contact Henry Croll at [hcroll@iastate.edu](mailto:hcroll@iastate.edu).

### WHAT TO EXPECT – NEXT STEPS:

1. Communities will receive an email from the DNR giving a heads up about the upcoming official Needs Survey.
2. Communities less than 10,000 in population will receive an email from [cwns@epa.gov](mailto:cwns@epa.gov). This email will be sent from EPA on behalf of the Iowa DNR. Please follow the link provided in the email to complete the Small Community Needs Form for your facility. Large communities will receive an email directly from Iowa State University.

Clean Watersheds Needs Survey Contacts for Iowa:

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## Operator Certification: Continuing Education Opportunities

Online and virtual training opportunities are being created and offered through community colleges, state industry associations, national industry associations, EPA, and other state industry partners. All operators should continue to monitor their emails and the Training Calendar on the [Iowa DNR Operator Certification Database](#). Look at the calendar often, as there are new opportunities posted throughout the week.

Please contact Laurie Sharp at (515) 725-0284 with any questions concerning operator certification training.



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