

Options for SepticSmart Events and Activities

Looking to educate community members about the importance of proper care and maintenance of septic systems? Here are some suggested activities.

If you are hosting a SepticSmart event, tell us about it at decentralized@epa.gov. And for education materials, check out the [SepticSmart Toolkit](#).

- **Host a Free Workshop or Presentation**

Idea: Workshops can be offered to homeowners, local officials, realtors or community watershed organizations about the proper care and maintenance of septic systems, including local laws and ordinances.

Real-world example: In Vermont, [the Mt. Ascutney Region River Subcommittee of the Connecticut River Joint Commissions](#) and the Black River Action Team is calling on locals to “get SepticSmart” by hosting a free workshop during SepticSmart Week.

- **Educate Using New Media**

Idea: Develop a YouTube video, social media campaign, or website to educate key stakeholders or the community at large about decentralized wastewater treatment and proper maintenance.

Real-world example: Wastewater treatment options for small communities go beyond centralized sewers. The National Environmental Services Center developed this [video](#) for local officials to help them understand decentralized treatment options.

- **Boy Scout-Girl Scout Badge Project**

Idea: Incorporate SepticSmart education into badge awards.

Real-world example: Marshfield Utilities in Wisconsin worked with local Girl Scouts to award two badges. For the first, "Ask Me About Groundwater," scouts prepared by learning the basics. Then, they attended events equipped with brochures and other communication materials and answered questions from the public. They earned the second badge, "[Let's Keep It Clean](#)," by doing communications or a volunteer activity based on what they learned about groundwater, including nonpoint sources of groundwater pollution such as septic systems.

- **Public Service Announcement Video Contest**

Idea: Develop a contest for people to make their own PSAs about septic maintenance.

Real-world example: Suffolk County, New York, hosted a [short video contest](#) in 2014 to encourage residents to maintain their septic systems for the protection of Long Island's coastal waters and habitat. The county announced winners during SepticSmart Week.

- **Host an Information Table or Booth**

Idea: Use the materials in the [SepticSmart Toolkit](#) to set up a display in the local health department office, a county fair, or a community meeting.

Real-world example: The [Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation Onsite Wastewater Program](#) staff created a display in their office's lobby during SepticSmart Week 2014 to educate the public and staff about septic maintenance.

- **Community Pledge**

Idea: Develop a community pledge to “get SepticSmart” through, for example, a community watershed organization.

Real-world example: The Southwest Florida Water Management District created a Watershed Pledge. Residents can go to [this website](#) and make a series of pledges related to water conservation, runoff and septic maintenance. In return, they get a blue pledge wristband in the mail.