
**Student Design Competition
for
Decentralized Wastewater Treatment**

Community Profiles

1. An attorney has recently moved into town and purchased a home downgradient from Site A. She has a spring as a water supply and is adamantly opposed to subsurface soil absorption dispersal upslope (upgradient) from her spring.
2. Three (3) homeowners have paid for installing high-tech wastewater treatment systems at their homes within the past five years. The cost of each of the three systems was \$12,000. They do not feel that their systems are contributing to water quality problems and are very resistant to modifying their current onsite wastewater treatment and dispersal systems.
3. One homeowner has a shallow well contaminated with fecal coliform. His onsite wastewater system is at least 50 years old. He is very supportive of a community-wide wastewater system that will protect all individual wells and that will be paid for by grants and loans. This homeowner is on a fixed income.
4. A local architect is an avid trout angler and has a home on the river in the community. He has a functioning onsite wastewater treatment and dispersal system, but it is within 50 feet of the river. He is very much concerned about any pipe crossing the river or near the river. He wants to know how the possibility of a pipe breaking will be addressed to protect the river. He does want the community system, is very knowledgeable about decentralized wastewater collection and treatment, and wants all technical issues addressed to protect “his” river.
5. One of the “stronger voices” in the community is an engineer who wants a conventional “big pipe” solution. In his opinion, decentralized wastewater treatment is a second-class band-aid solution.