
NS ENVIRONMENT AND LABOUR
2006-07 Budget Highlights

Septage Treatment Assistance Program – \$500,000

What is the objective of this initiative?

The purpose of the Septage Treatment Assistance Program is to protect the quality of drinking water and groundwater resources by ensuring proper construction, maintenance and operation of septage treatment facilities and systems.

Why is the initiative important?

The Septage Treatment Assistant Program supports communities across Nova Scotia. Household water and wastewater services must function properly to protect public health and the environment. Approximately 400,000 people in rural Nova Scotia depend on sewage pumpers and septage operators to handle the volume of wastewater generated by pumping out septic tanks. Regular maintenance of individual septic systems is crucial to groundwater protection and this material (referred to as “septage”) must be handled and properly treated to reduce potential adverse effects in our environment.

Who is benefits from the initiative?

Rural Nova Scotia will primarily benefit from this initiative. There are 29 privately and municipally operated septage treatment facilities in the Province. These septage treatment facilities are located in every county of the Province with the exception of Richmond and Shelburne Counties. Most of these sites must undergo major upgrading of their facility in order to comply with the Department’s revised “Guidelines for the Handling, Treatment and Disposal of Septage.” All operators must comply with these guidelines by December 31, 2010. This four year program will not only assist the individual operators to stay in business, but will help to control the costs to rural homeowners for management of their individual septic systems.

Construction of a new 250,000 gallon per year septage treatment facility is estimated at \$450,000. Capital needs for upgrading existing facilities could be in the \$100,000 range depending on the degree of non compliance with the revised guidelines.

This four-year program, totalling \$2.9 million, will offer assistance of up to \$100,000 for replacement septage treatment facilities or new technologies, and up to \$50,000 for improvements to existing septage treatment facilities.

How will the funding be spent?

This program will be managed by NSEL. Eligibility for the program will be for existing, privately and municipally operated septage treatment facilities.

The Department will require operators to engage the services of private consultants to carry out any required engineering work associated with the facilities.

Operators will be able to access an incentive program that will provide up to 50% of costs to a maximum of \$100,000 for the replacement of non-viable facilities or for the implementation of new technologies for septage treatment systems, including engineering studies, environmental monitoring requirements, construction costs and sludge treatment.

Operators will be able to access an incentive program that will provide up to 50% of costs to a maximum of \$50,000 for improvements to their existing septage treatment facility, including engineering studies, environmental monitoring requirements, construction costs, sludge treatment and new technologies.

For further information, please contact:
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