



TOWN OF COLCHESTER

Do You Have Septic System Worries?

A Substandard, Failing or Failed System?

Help Is Available to Qualifying Colchester Residents!

Town of Colchester Integrated Water Resources Management Plan (IWRMP)

In 2009 the Town of Colchester was awarded an EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) grant to develop an integrated Water Resources Management Plan. The grant was the first of its kind in Vermont. The goal of the IWRM is to protect Colchester's extensive water resources through an increased understanding of the relationship between water resources, land use, stormwater and wastewater management.

You can find further information at:
www.colchesterwaters.net

Innovative Wastewater Programs

A new on-site septic system can cost \$30,000 or more, including engineering, permitting and construction. To improve the quality of Colchester's water resources and help low-income home owners with the costs associated with improving their septic system, the Town offers **mini-grants** to owners of qualifying Colchester properties depending on property risk assessment (as identified by the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan) and financial need.

If you are a property owner in this situation, we encourage you to apply.

Applications are available online at:
<http://colchestervt.gov/PlanningZ/forms/rlfapplication.pdf>

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Department of Planning and Zoning
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Colchester, VT 05446

Visit us on the web:
www.colchestervt.gov

The Municipal Goal

With advances in technology and greater concern for the environment, wastewater standards change periodically. The Town would like to work with property owners to bring all septic systems up to current environmental standards. However, permits for functioning systems that were designed to meet outdated standards *are* still valid.

Property owners who apply for a grant or loan need not be concerned about bringing attention to a problematic septic system. In general, the Town does not want to “shut down” or otherwise force a solution on a property owner and most homeowners can continue cautious use of their systems.

However, in cases where raw sewage is surfacing, or directly flowing into surface waters, the Town will need to find an immediate solution to the problem.



Basic Qualifications for Assistance

- ◇ Only properties located in Colchester qualify.
- ◇ Priority will be given to owner-occupied homes within areas designated as high-risk.
- ◇ Award priority will be given in order of failed, failing and substandard systems.
- ◇ Private portions of systems that are connected to a municipal sewer collection main will be considered also. In most cases this determination must be made by a Licensed Designer*.
- ◇ Town officials will give limited assistance with determination at property owner request. Most applicants will require a Licensed Designer* to investigate the problem and design the solution.
- ◇ All applications must meet the above qualifications and additional information or clarification may be necessary.
- ◇ Applications will be evaluated and ranked. The Town may visit the property and/or request a meeting with the applicant and their Licensed Designer* for review.
- ◇ Owners of qualified parcels who do not receive a loan in a given year may be considered in the next award cycle.
- ◇ Applicants must acquire all necessary wastewater permits.

* A *Licensed Designer* is either a professional engineer or a site technician that is qualified in the State of Vermont to prepare designs in accordance with State design standards. A list of engineers is available upon request in the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Option One: The Mini-Grant Fund

The qualifications and review process for the mini-grant are the same as for the loan program, but a grant does not require repayment. Grants of up to \$20,000 may be available. The grant fund and a revolving loan may be combined to maximize the funds available.

Application packets for both programs are available at the Town Office in the Planning and Zoning Dept.

Option Two: State Loan Program

The State of Vermont has begun an on-site wastewater loan program. For more information please contact Bryan Redmond, Program Manager at (802)-585-4900.

Additional information can also be found on-line at:

<http://www.septic.vt.gov/fundingonsiteloan.htm>