Advice Worth Drinking
(Your Water, Your Decision):
How today’s land-use decisions can protect tomorrow’s water supply
Introduction

- Advice Worth Drinking (Your Water, Your Decision): How today’s land-use decisions can protect tomorrow’s water supply – A PLANNER’S GUIDE
  - Prepared by the Source Water Collaborative (SWC) - a coalition of 27 national organizations united to protect our drinking water supply sources
  - American Planning Association (APA) – led the development of the Guide
  - Available at http://sourcewatercollaborative.org/guide-for-land-use-planners/
Introduction

- Vision of SWC – All drinking water sources are adequately protected. As a result, the nation gains profound public health advantages as well as economic benefits.
- Recognizing the direct link between land and water – constituents in water originate from land.
- In the age of specialization, our focuses on specific issues become narrow.
- Need to recognize the linkages between land use and water quality – cross disciplines.
Putting Drinking Water into the Planning Process

- Integrate source water protection into planning activities:
  - Provide sustainable water source because of reduced treatment needs and increased availability
  - Offer increased public health protection from toxic chemicals and disease causing pathogens
  - Need collaboration among partners, such as water system operators, land use planners, land owners, watershed organizations, and regulators
Strategic Point of Intervention

- LONG RANGE VISIONING - goal setting and characterization of source water
- PLAN MAKING - master or general plans, sub-area plans, and functional plans
- REGULATIONS/INCENTIVES - implementing plans (e.g., zoning ordinances, transfer of development rights, and others)
- DEVELOPMENT PROJECT REVIEW - identification and mitigation of problems
- PUBLIC INVESTMENT - with an eye on safeguarding water quality to protect investments
Selected Resources

- **General Resources**
  - Source Water Collaborative: Resources, tools, case studies and links to practitioners.
  - American Water Works Association: Resource community for the drinking water industry compiling the latest science, guidance, and tools for Source Water Protection.
  - EPA Ground Water and Drinking Water: Information on source water assessments, protection efforts, partnerships, outreach, and other tools to protect sources of drinking water.
Selected Resources

- **Smart Growth**
  - Smart Growth Network: A coalition of developers, planners, government officials, community groups and other stakeholders.
  - EPA Smart Growth Program: Information on “smart growth” policies, funding sources, networking opportunities, technical tools and resources.
Selected Resources

Training and Education

- Nonpoint Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO): Education for local officials on land use and natural resource protection.
- Center for Watershed Protection: Information on watershed protection, training, and low impact development techniques.
- EPA Water Training: Water protection training courses, modules, and workshops.
Selected Resources

- Water Resources/Protection Planning & Design
  - Low Impact Development Center
  - Local Government Environmental Assistance Network (LGEAN): Environmental management, planning, and regulatory information for local government officials.
  - EPA National Menu on Stormwater Best Management Practices: Guidance on developing a Phase II stormwater program along with a list of best management practices to mitigate runoff pollution.
Selected Resources

- Funding Information and Tools
  - Trust for Public Land: Assistance on planning for and financing land conservation.
  - Source Water Collaborative: How to Collaborate Toolkit funding for source water protection.
  - EPA Guidance on Watershed Funding: Information about sources of funding to practitioners and funders that serve to protect watersheds.
  - Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center: EPA is funding Environmental Finance Centers around the country to provide finance training, technical assistance, and other support to regulated communities.
Selected Resources

- **Mapping & Data for Land Use Planning**
  - USGS Water Resources Maps and Data: Comprehensive national database of water resource maps and data (GIS) available for download.
  - DWMAPS (Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Water): Mapping application for potential sources of contamination to drinking water.
  - EPA WATERS: EPA mapping application providing access to numerous GIS water datasets water.; EPA WATERS in Google Earth.
  - EPA BASINS (Better Assessment Science Integrating Point & Non-point Sources): GIS-based environmental analysis system that assists in watershed management and TMDL development.
Summary

- Drinking water is essential for healthy and vibrant communities
- Relationship between land use and water quality is strong
- Protecting drinking water from its source is good business
- Land-use planners are essential for successful source water protection programs (for the present and the future)
Questions

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