Project Summary:
The Septic Sense program developed, implemented, tested and evaluated a septic system operation and maintenance workshop program for rural residential landowners in Alberta. The Septic Sense program had three broad objectives:

1. Awareness – to help septic system owners recognize that management of private onsite wastewater systems is their responsibility, and the potential impacts of human activities on groundwater and the broader environment.
2. Knowledge – to help septic system owners gain a basic understanding of groundwater science, how a septic system works, and how a septic system should be operated and maintained.
3. Practice Change – to help septic system owners acquire the skills and motivation to adopt recommended septic system management practices.

Outcomes:
A total of 19 workshops were held between January 18/17 and March 30/17. 623 individuals participated in these workshops with at least 5 workshops having to cap total attendees due to lack of space. The majority of survey respondents either ‘strongly agreed’ or ‘agreed’ that the Septic Sense workshop increased their understanding of proper sewage treatment and how a septic system works.

Requests for future workshops continue. Land Stewardship Center staff are working closely with the program partners and government to explore options for continuing the Septic Sense program model for delivery in 2017-2018.

Links:
http://www.landstewardship.org/septic-sense/

Alberta Innovates Contact:
Rick Nelson
richard.nelson@albertainnovates.ca