



ALBERTA INNOVATES

Research and Innovation Project – Knowledge Transfer Summary

Project Title:	Septic Sense
Project No:	2330
Project Lead:	Brian Ilnicki, Land Stewardship Centre of Canada
Partners:	Alberta Innovates, Alberta Real Estate Foundation, Alberta Onsite Wastewater Management Association, Municipal partners
Status:	Complete

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:

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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/>

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