

**NEWS RELEASE TEMPLATE ANNOUNCING COMPLETION OF A SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PLAN
(for communities/water districts to issue on their letterhead)**

FOR RELEASE: Date xx, 20xx
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Local Drinking Water Being Protected

The _____ (name of water system/municipality) source water protection plan has been endorsed by Ohio EPA. The plan enhances the community's ability to protect the quality of its drinking water source.

A source water protection plan documents potential sources of contamination and develops strategies to prevent, detect and respond to contamination within the drinking water source protection area.

A major component of the plan includes educating the public and local businesses about spills and chemical storage and how to prevent contaminants from reaching the drinking water source. Often, the best protection is prevention. Educated citizens and businesses can make sure their activities do not put a water resource at risk.

The plan's detection and contamination response strategies help a community deal with source water that already has been impacted. Implementing the source water protection plan can significantly reduce water treatment costs, a benefit that is passed on to all users. A source water protection plan also can help a community plan future growth by directing new industries that use or store hazardous materials to locate outside the source water protection zone.

Ohio EPA determines the boundaries of the protection area and helps identify potential contaminant sources so the community can assess current risks and begin writing the plan. Once the plan is written, Ohio EPA reviews and endorses it.

The plans are locally written so they fit the goals and resources of each community. When complete, the local water system works with its emergency responders, businesses and residents to implement the plan.

The source water protection plan is a public document. A copy can be requested from _____ (name of water system/municipality) or from Ohio EPA. More information about Ohio EPA's Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) Program is available online at www.epa.ohio.gov/ddagw/swap_protplan.aspx.

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NOTE: A presentation officially endorsing the local source water protection plan will be held on _____ (date and time) at _____ (location).