

Partnering Agreement Between  
The National Environmental Health Association  
and the  
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, U.S.A.

**I**t is understood that:

**A**chieving water quality protection through improved technical standards of practice in developing solutions for the unsewered wastewater infrastructure, that further enables access to safe drinking water supplies is one of the most important actions to be taken towards improving public health and well-being anywhere in the world.

These values are the foundation of NOWRA's Strategic Framework ....

To "achieve sustainable development while protecting human health and environmental quality."

At the same time, the education in the ways of practices and solutions for existing and future users of these systems, as well as planning, public health, and regulatory policy and elected officials; the building, realty and financial industries; environmental and business groups, as well as the general public is equally critical.

**I**t is recognized that the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association is one of the leading organizations within the United States through which environmental health professionals can upgrade their knowledge and training of the onsite and decentralized wastewater industry and increase their capacity to better manage and develop their water resources; and that

The values and mission of the National Environmental Health Association are also directed towards mutual educational goals that address ongoing improvements and scientific and technological advancements for the development of methods for the protection and management of surface and groundwater resources and the environment.

**T**he mission of the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, (NOWRA) is to enhance the education of, and provide ongoing improvements to the technical standards of practices, skills and credibility of onsite professionals; and to develop and exchange industry knowledge and promote the advances of public recognition of the value of onsite treatment systems as viable and affordable solutions to the unsewered wastewater infrastructure. As an organization, its ongoing work embodies the following principles and values.

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association is a nationally recognized operational educational, non-governmental organization, and grass-roots organization working to increase understanding of decentralized and onsite wastewater treatment systems throughout the United States and in some international countries.

NOWRA is a voluntary organization without capital stock, and with a diverse membership composed of persons, firms, and organizations within the decentralized onsite wastewater recycling industry who are not restricted from active participation and involvement in any way for reasons of race, creed, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, age, or because of physical or mental handicap, or because of the person's veteran status, or lack thereof.

It is recognized by the government of the United States of America as a not-for-profit organization, and that the Association complies with the laws of the nation and the State of Florida regarding these entities; with over 5,500 members in throughout the US, Canada, and Australia.

The National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association has assigned its Executive Director the responsibility to facilitate the timely dissemination of information on meetings, distribution of documentation, provision of access and, simple and streamlined procedures for the attendance of decentralized and onsite wastewater treatment industry professionals in NOWRA meetings, and to facilitate their broad-based participation;

**T**herefore, because the National Environmental Health Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association each serve mutual water quality protection interests, it is agreed that the best interests of both organizations will be facilitated by:

- Improved understanding and long-term mutual objectives;
- Sustained contacts among ground water professionals; and by
- Sustained contacts among leaders and staff of both organizations.

**I**n supporting these mutual best interests, the National Environmental Health Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association U.S.A. hereby agree to a cooperative partnering relationship by fulfilling activities.

1. The sharing of information on technical and scientific matters, as produced by committees or interest groups of both organizations shall be pursued on a regular basis, with all exchanges and mutual comments on draft documents facilitated through NOWRA's Technical Practices Committee.
2. Both organizations shall endeavor to work jointly on the advancement of education and training programs, the production of technical documents intended for users, with the shared objective of creating national understanding of onsite system wastewater science, technology and policy. Publication and distribution of policy and technical documents relating to onsite wastewater treatment systems shall be accomplished through the policy review standards of NOWRA's Technical Practices Committee.
3. Both organizations agree to provide on a reciprocal basis: mailing lists, a link between respective websites, and participation in joint conferences and training sessions to further enable the communication and education goals to be achieved.

4. Regular communications shall be exchanged on other projects of mutual interest or benefit. Such exchanges could include subjects dealing with joint research and development, education and training, matters of trade, or relating business development.
5. The Presidents, and/or their designated representatives of the National Environmental Health Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association, U.S.A. through the office of the NEHA and NOWRA Executive Directors shall maintain regular communication and be responsible for the successful implementation of this agreement.
6. Officials of the National Environmental Health Association and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association shall make this resolution widely known, to all U.S. regions and in applicable areas of the world.

Signed by the Executive Directors of the  
National Environmental Health Association  
National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association  
June 2003