



August 29, 2016

The Onsite Wastewater Management Industry Has a Vital Role to Play in Water Resource Management

The impact the onsite wastewater industry can have on the environment can be significant and it is gathering international attention as a cost-effective and sustainable solution to wastewater management challenges. As potable water becomes more scarce in certain regions, the international community is looking for ways to better manage wastewater and in fact to use it as a resource. Over the past few years a number of national and international partnerships have developed to discuss and develop management plans and policies that support the future sustainability of water resources and onsite wastewater features largely in this process.

In the US, the Water Environment and Research Foundation recently joined together with the WaterReuse Research Foundation to create WE&RF. This agency spends millions of dollars annually researching and developing policies for the management of water and wastewater resources.

The US Environmental Protection Agency has developed a partnership with eighteen other public and private sector agencies to research decentralized wastewater's feasibility as a sustainable, green, cost effective solution. Several papers have been developed by this group. Public education is a critical factor in promoting the benefits of decentralized wastewater solutions and to that end the EPA has a robust program that stakeholders can access to support education efforts. The EPA also has an MOU with WE&RF to properly manage decentralized wastewater systems.

Canada is no slouch in the water and wastewater research arena either. Research funding through the Canadian Water Network, the Natural Science and Research Council of Canada, the CMHC and other agencies has supported research at various universities and colleges throughout Canada on issues such as pharmaceutical contamination from wastewater, the use of wetlands to treat sewage, cold climate treatment of wastewater, assessment and management of environmental risks, water recapture and reuse, the effectiveness of LFH At-Grades Systems in the treatment of onsite wastewater and more.

On an even greater international scale, a collaborative consortium, led by the Institute for Sustainable Futures (ISF) at University of Technology Sydney in Australia is involved in a three-year project focussing on effective governance for decentralised sanitation with BORDA Germany, the International Water Association and the UK Overseas Development Institute (ODI) among others while in the Middle East, Jordan is developing a new decentralized wastewater management plan.

The long and the short of it is, the onsite wastewater industry has a key role to play in order to ensure that the septic systems we design, install, maintain and repair provide safe and effective treatment as we return the wastewater to the environment. We may think of our industry as a pretty small cog in a big wheel, but that cog is becoming more and more important as time goes on and resources shrink.

New Affinity Member

CARO Analytical Services

CARO Analytical Services (CARO) is a Canadian based, full service analytical laboratory that provides testing services to public and private clients throughout North America.

In operation for over 29 years, CARO specializes in providing general chemical analysis, microbiological analysis, food residue analysis, and contaminated site testing of soil vapour, drinking water, wastewater, water, vegetation, tissue, soil and sediments. CARO is accredited to ISO17025 by the Canadian Association for Laboratory Accreditation (CALA). CARO's client base ranges from health authorities, public utilities, government ministries, consultants, industry, businesses to private individuals. Our highly trained staff of chemists, microbiologists, technologists and customer service professionals have the expertise and experience to handle not only routine tests, but also specialized analyses to suit all client needs.

CARO operates from the following locations:

Richmond, British Columbia

#110 – 4011 Viking Way
Richmond, BC, V6V 2K9, Canada
Phone: (604) 279-1499
Fax: (604) 279-1599

Kelowna, British Columbia

#102 – 3677 Highway 97N
Kelowna, BC, V1X 5C3, Canada
Phone: (250) 765-9646
Toll Free: (888) 311-8846
Fax: (250) 765-3893

Edmonton, Alberta

17225 109 Ave NW
Edmonton, AB, T5S 1H7, Canada
Phone: (780) 489-9100
Fax: (780) 489-9700

Onsite Wastewater Practitioner Training

The next available training session dates are:

Days 1-3 - November 1 – 3, 2016 - Saskatoon, SK

Days 4-7 - November 15 – 18, 2016 – Saskatoon, SK

Register online at www.sowma.ca or contact the association office at 855-872-2650 for more information.

Upcoming Events

NAWT/NOWRA

2016 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference
October 26-29, 2016
Reno, NV

WWETT Expo Education Day

Water & Wastewater Equipment, Treatment &
Transport Show
Indiana Convention Center - Indianapolis, Indiana
February 22 - 25, 2017

CIPHI Saskatoon Annual Convention

November 8 – 9, 2016
Saskatoon, SK

2017 SARM Annual Convention

March 13, 2017 to March 16, 2017
Saskatoon, SK