

Protecting Ontario's Sources of Drinking Water

5-year summary of outcomes (2017 - 2021)

Protection Framework

Clean Water Act, 2006

First step in source to tap protection

- Protects existing and future sources of drinking water in Ontario from contamination and depletion
- Enables municipalities to take action to protect source water through prevention
- Strong focus on risk management and land use planning

Provincial partnerships

- 19 source protection authorities
- 19 source protection committees
 - Multi-stakeholder representing local interests
 - Local champions for source protection and support on-the-ground efforts
- 484 municipalities

Source protection plans

- 22 plans protecting ~450 municipal drinking water systems
- Science-based protection zones used to protect drinking water sources
- Contain requirements for actions to protect drinking water


15973 risks addressed
4272 policies to manage significant threats
92% policies being implemented or in progress*

Actions for Protection

Prescribed instruments

- Specific approvals or instruments that ensure activities conform with source protection requirements
- New activity applications are screened for vulnerable areas and significant drinking water threats

2735 applications reviewed
1035 risk activities regulated



Risk management plans (RMP's)

- Site specific documents that outline required actions to address high-risk drinking water threats
- Approximately **125 risk management officials** across the province **enforce 1539 RMPs**
- 99% Compliance with 652 RMP inspections in 2021**

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2017 → 506 RMPs on 669 properties
vs 2021 → 1539 RMPs on 1918 properties

Prohibited activities

- Significant current and future threat activities can be prohibited under the Act

435 high risk activities currently prohibited in Ontario
For example road salt application is prohibited in certain areas



Interactive mapping tool

Source Protection Information Atlas

- Web based interactive mapping tool with real time data
- User can determine if a property is in a vulnerable area
- Helps user identify if they need to take action to protect a nearby source of drinking water

Other actions

- 92%** of municipalities are incorporating source water protection into their official land use plans
- 1980** source water protection signs have been installed on roadways throughout Ontario
- 12673** septic systems inspected since 2017
 → **2667** inspected in 2021

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION
 Our Actions Matter

* Please note the policy implementation or in progress percentage is a provincial total. This percentage differs from previous years where the implementation status calculated was based on a regional average. The implementation or in progress status is in reference to legally binding significant drinking water threat policies.