



AN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING STORY

DEVELOPMENT OF A NITRATE TASKFORCE

Eau Claire County, Wisconsin

THE PROBLEM

Eau Claire City-County Health Department (ECCCHD) staff and many partners are all working on a common goal of promoting safe, high-quality drinking water. However, ECCCHD staff recognized there wasn't a coordinated way to communicate with these partners to share resources, develop similar messaging, and discuss priorities for addressing nitrate in drinking water. ECCCHD applied for and received funding from the Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program to work on this issue.

WHAT EAU CLAIRE CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT DID

ECCCHD staff invited partners from the farming community, land conservation, academia, Department of Natural Resources, the Eau Claire County Groundwater Advisory Committee, public health, and others to form the Eau Claire Nitrate Taskforce. The group met for the first time in June 2016 to discuss goals for future work on drinking water quality.

With ECCCHD's facilitation, the group prioritized three goals: 1) increasing well testing, 2) determining education best practices, and 3) defining groundwater flow and common co-contaminants. The Taskforce also brainstormed ideas for improving messaging around well water testing.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH IMPACT

Through connections made in the Taskforce, agencies working on water quality can collaborate to save time, money, and resources. Coordinated messaging will also strengthen the impact of their efforts.

ECCCHD continues to work closely with agencies that participated in the Taskforce to implement new campaigns, initiatives, and outreach, creating sustainability far beyond the end of the grant.



Taskforce members prioritized future work, which helped the group develop a plan toward improved water quality that will be shared on our website.

JIM DUNNING
Chair of Groundwater
Advisory Committee

WISCONSIN ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH TRACKING PROGRAM
Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health

dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht | SEPTEMBER 2016 | dhstracking@wi.gov
Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health | P-01595A (rev. 08/2017)

This project funded by the Tracking team's *Taking Action with Data* program.

