

July 2024 -- SORA Renews Its Commitment to EPA's Decentralized Wastewater MOU Partnership

In December of 2023, SORA reaffirmed its leadership position in the onsite wastewater field by signing on as a continuing partner to the EPA's Decentralized Wastewater Management Memorandum of Understanding. The partnership was formed in 2005 by EPA, and SORA was one of 8 nonprofit organizations which were charter members to the partnership. Currently the partnership has 27 member organizations. The renewal signing was held at EPA Headquarters in Washington, DC.

SORA's participation in the [Decentralized Wastewater Management MOU](#) ensures that the needs and concerns of state regulatory agencies are communicated at the national level. It has been an active participant in some major initiatives undertaken by the partnership, including:

- [Model Program to Assist State Septic Programs in Managing Water Quality Impacts in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed](#)
- [A searchable wastewater technology clearinghouse](#) with a special section devoted to decentralized wastewater technologies
- Position papers promoting the social, economic and environmental benefits of using decentralized systems
- [Three reports focusing on creating a sustainable decentralized wastewater workforce.](#)
- [Septic Smart public education program](#)

The partnership welcomed several new members to the growing MOU Partnership:

[International Code Council \(ICC\)](#): To provide information, tools and resources that members rely on, building safety professionals turn to, and the public trusts.

[National Association of Clean Water Agencies \(NACWA\)](#): NACWA represents public wastewater and stormwater agencies of all sizes nationwide.

[Ocean Sewage Alliance \(OSA\)](#): [The mission of the Ocean Sewage Alliance is to eliminate sewage and wastewater pollution from our ocean and waterways, advancing equitable and holistic actions that benefit people and nature.](#)

[United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development \(USDA-RD\)](#): U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development (RD), under the leadership of the Biden-Harris Administration, champions the economic prosperity, sustainability, and health of rural families and their communities. Leveraging partnerships and federal resources targeting water and wastewater infrastructure throughout rural America is a key part of this work.

[WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene \(WASH\)](#): To produce reliable estimates of national, regional and global progress on WASH to inform decision making by government, donor and civil society organizations.