



## PE7 Action: Source Water Protection

6 Points

10 Points

### A. Why is this action important?

Maintaining the long-term viability and quality of the public drinking water supply is critical to ensuring health, safety, and a viable local economy. In some areas, climate change has already put stress on water supplies, necessitating strategic planning, conservation, and source water protection programs. It is critical to identify current sources of public drinking water, assess existing protections in the watersheds or recharge areas, and to take actions that will increase those protections (for both quality and quantity) over time.

The [Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\)](#) is designed to aid communities in creating an individualized protection plan for their drinking water sources. This proactive approach may help communities better understand potential climate impacts to water sources and implement measures to ensure that water supplies remain cost-effective, viable, and resilient in the face of climate change.

### B. How to implement this action

To create a source water protection plan, local governments should utilize the comprehensive process outlined in the [DWSP2 framework \(PDF\)](#):

**Stakeholder Group.** Communities should identify and build a stakeholder group that draws upon diverse areas of expertise, with at least one member having specific knowledge about local and regional climate change. The stakeholder group will establish goals for protecting drinking water sources from climate change related impacts and formulate a vision for creating resilient drinking water infrastructure.

**Drinking Water Source Assessment.** Understanding and assessing drinking water sources is critical to developing protection and climate resiliency plans for source waters. Identify and delineate the watershed or contribution area to the drinking water supply in order to identify and assess potential contamination of the source. Utilizing the DWSP2 framework, communities should assess the drinking water source's potential to experience adverse impacts from climate change. Consider the projected climate change impacts on those supplies over time, such as the increased frequency and severity of precipitation events that may cause increased pollution stemming from surface runoff from both urban and agricultural lands.

**Protection and Implementation Strategies.** Identify and create an implementation plan, including achievable timelines, of protection and management strategies for the community's drinking water sources, and funding strategies. Management strategies will vary by community needs and type of public water supply system and should be tailored to each community by the stakeholder group and state agency technical assistance providers. Examples of climate change protection strategies for drinking water sources include the implementation of best management practices on adjacent lands contributing pollutants via runoff, the establishment of water quality control and monitoring areas, identifying potential land acquisition and easement establishment. Local governments may want to combine this effort with PE7 Action: Watershed Plan for Flooding, as well as other adaptation planning actions under PE7.

**Plan Management (“Progression and Maintenance”).** Ensuring the ongoing implementation and management of a completed DWSP2 plan is critical to protecting water supplies from long-term climate change impacts. A Plan Management Team should be chosen by the community to review and share the plan, share progress reports, and periodically revise the plan to account for changing variables, such as land use, additional water quality data, and the addition of new water sources to the system.

### C. Timeframe, project costs, and resource needs

Section 3.2 of the DWSP2 framework details the development of an implementation strategy timeline for a protection plan. While management actions can vary greatly in implementation time from short (stakeholder group creation, public education and outreach) to long (land acquisition, infrastructure replacement), a local government can likely complete the planning element of this action within 1 to 2 years. Implementation and monitoring of this action are ongoing efforts that should be maintained by the Plan Management Team.

### D. Which local governments implement this action? Which departments within the local government are most likely to have responsibility for this action?

This action is applicable to all types of local governments. The department that manages water issues is most likely to be responsible for this action. Cross-department involvement and support are recommended, along with contributions from an interdisciplinary climate adaptation committee (which could be part of the group that is described in [PE1 Action: CSC Task Force](#)). Stakeholder involvement from local organizations and watershed groups is recommended. If the sources or their watersheds/recharge areas cross municipal boundaries, applicants should work with other municipalities as well. Applicants requesting CSC points for participation in regional or intermunicipal plans will be required to demonstrate substantial investment and involvement in that process.

### E. How to obtain points for this action

Points for this action are tiered based on completion of the components described below. All must have occurred within ten years prior to the application date.

	<i>POSSIBLE POINTS</i>
Create and adopt a source water protection plan that accounts for climate change projections and includes an implementation timeline for protection and management methods	6
Implement two or more protection and/or management methods defined in the source water protection plan	4

### F. What to submit

Plan: Submit a copy of or link to a source water protection plan that accounts for climate change projections and includes an implementation timeline for protection and management methods. Submit proof that the plan has been adopted by the municipality.

Implementation: Submit documentation regarding implementation of two or more strategies identified in the source water protection plan.

These actions must have been completed within the past 10 years.

All CSC action documentation is available for public viewing after an action is approved. Action submittals should not include any sensitive information or documents that are not intended to be viewed by the general public, such as exact water intake or well locations.

### G. Links to additional resources or examples

- [New York State \(NYS\) Department of Health \(DOH\) and Department of Environmental Conservation \(DEC\), Drinking Water Source Protection Program \(DWSP2\)](#)
- [US Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\), Source Water Protection](#)
- [NYS DEC, Drinking Water Source Protection Program](#)
- [NYS DOH, Source Water Assessment Program](#)
- [NYS DOH, Source Water Assessment Program Plan](#)

- [Trust for Public Land, Source Protection Handbook](#)
- [New York Rural Water Association](#)
- [Fact sheet and case studies of communities that have implemented source water Protection using Clean Water State Revolving Funds](#)
- [NYS DEC Water Quality Improvement Program](#)
- [NYS Department of Agriculture and Markets Soil and Water Source Water Buffer Program](#)
- [Southampton, NY, Aquifer Protection Overlay District](#)

## **H. Recertification Requirements**

The recertification requirements are the same as the initial certification requirements.