

Searchable Clearinghouse of Wastewater Technologies (SCOWT): Review Criteria for Resources

Introduction

The Searchable Clearinghouse of Wastewater Technologies (SCOWT) is an information-sharing platform providing resources on the cost-effectiveness and performance of innovative, alternative, and reuse wastewater technologies. The goal of SCOWT is to help communities make informed choices about innovative, alternative, and reuse wastewater technologies. SCOWT includes information for centralized and decentralized treatment systems, as well as water reuse technologies. EPA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies, internet applications or any policies or information expressed by third parties via SCOWT. The scope of SCOWT will encompass cost, performance, and organizational considerations to adopt these technologies. *Documents or other materials whose primary focus falls outside of these topic areas will not be considered for inclusion in SCOWT.*

Please contact SCOWT@epa.gov with any questions.

Submitting resources to SCOWT

If you would like to submit resource(s) for review, please complete the form under the “Submit Feedback or Resources” tab. EPA will review and consider all submissions; resources will be evaluated for inclusion to SCOWT based on the linked criteria below. Submissions will be reviewed on a rolling basis.

Anyone who wishes to submit a resource for consideration to be included in SCOWT should note the following requirements and expectations:

- EPA will only publicly share resources via SCOWT for which we have received a **signed licensing agreement from the copyright owner**. Users can recommend resources for which they do not own the copyrights.
- Technologies to be included in SCOWT must be considered as **adopted, innovative, and/or alternative** according to the following definitions of those terms:
 - **Adopted technology:** Those technologies that have demonstrated effectiveness via a minimum of two years of performance data for a particular application.
 - **Innovative technology:** Wastewater treatment processes or components that are not fully proven in the circumstances of their intended use but, based upon documented research and demonstration projects, appear to offer the promise of benefits that outweigh the potential risks of failure. Technologies will be designated as innovative on a case-by-case basis if they are significantly different from proven conventional or alternative technologies and if they offer the potential to significantly advance the state-of-the-art in terms of lifecycle costs, environmental benefits, or more efficient use of energy and resources.¹
 - **Alternative technology:** Fully proven wastewater treatment systems that reclaim or reuse wastewater, productively recycle wastewater components, recover energy, or

¹ EPA (1980) Innovative Technology definition

eliminate pollutant discharge. Specific alternative technologies include onsite treatment or alternative wastewater conveyance systems for small communities, natural systems, land treatment of wastewater and sludge, direct reuse (non-potable) of treated wastewater, direct and indirect potable reuse, aquifer recharge, composting, co-disposal of sludge, and refuse, and methane recovery and use. Alternative technologies typically provide cost savings compared to conventional treatment because of lower operation and maintenance costs or cost recovery through productive use of wastes.²

- Resources **must be related to wastewater and fall within one or more of the following topics:**
 - *Centralized resources:* cost/performance, resource recovery, business systems and processes, water reuse, wastewater collection and conveyance, wastewater treatment, and/or wet weather management.
 - *Decentralized resources:* advanced septic systems, conventional septic systems, cost/performance, soil-based dispersal, and/or water reuse.
 - *Water reuse resources:* intelligent water systems, potable water reuse, and/or non-potable water reuse.
- **International resources** are permitted.
- Resources must be from a **reliable source**.
- Resources **must not contain** false information, identifiable personal information, advertisements, solicitations, violation of a copyright, or manufacturer's performance claims.
- Users may suggest **topic filter tags** when submitting resources. EPA may adjust these as appropriate after review.
- EPA's goal is to provide digital files directly in SCOWT to maximize ease of access for all users. If you are submitting a resource for which you are the copyright owner and are willing to have EPA share your resource directly through SCOWT, please **provide the file in addition to a completed Licensing Agreement**.
- You may submit links to **websites** that contain relevant information.

EPA will not post documents that:

- contain obscene, indecent, or profane language;
- contain threats or defamatory statements;
- contain hate speech directed at race, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnicity, age, religion, or disability; or
- promote or endorse services or products. (Note that non-commercial links that are relevant to the topic or another comment are acceptable.)

² EPA (2020) Alternative Technology definition