

Tech Teams

Tech teams assist communities with framing their infrastructure issues clearly, exploring possible solutions, identifying key regulatory planning and financing programs, and answering as many questions as possible. Communities may request a tech team at any time from funding program staff. Staff can convene and facilitate the tech team meetings, and provide assistance on either a short- or long-term basis.

Below are just a few examples of the many tech teams held over the past several years.

Town of Almira (Lincoln)

Almira requested Tech Team meetings in 2010 and 2012 for assistance with drinking water infrastructure improvements.

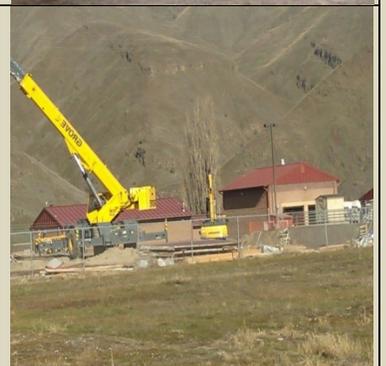
Now: The project is nearing completion, and includes a new well, transmission main, distribution piping, radio telemetry and a new glass fused to steel water reservoir. The reservoir will utilize aeration and chlorination treatment methods to remove hydrogen sulfide contaminant in the Town's existing well. The project was financed through two CDBG General Purpose grants and a PWTF Construction loan.



City of Clarkston (Asotin)

In 2010, the City requested a Tech Team with staff from various funding and regulatory programs and technical assistance providers. The facilities and equipment at the Clarkston wastewater treatment plant were at least 20 years old and needed to be replaced due to age limitations.

Now: The Tech Team resulted in the City being provided an action plan that ultimately led to securing a PWTF Construction loan and USDA Rural Development funding. The project will be completed in early 2014.



City of Bridgeport (Douglas)

The City's wastewater treatment plant was outdated and over capacity despite producing quality effluent. Upon exceeding 85% of design capacity, the City was required by Ecology to draft a facility plan, followed by capital improvement projects to maintain adequate capacity.

Now: The project is 50% complete, with all major structures built and piping installed. Start up will take place in early 2014. The project was funded with a PWTF Construction loan and CDBG General Purpose grant.



City of Soap Lake (Grant)

Tech Team participants met in 2010 to develop an action plan to secure funding for constructing wastewater treatment facility improvements.

Now: After completing a facilities plan, the City applied for and was awarded a PWTF Construction loan. The project will be under construction soon.



Town of Hatton (Adams)

A Tech Team in 2010 provided guidance to the Town of Hatton for making their water system improvements.

Now: The Town recently completed their water system improvement project which included the replacement of water main and the addition of fire hydrants. Previously, the Town's water system was outdated, undersized, and had no fire protection capabilities. The project was funded entirely by a CDBG General Purpose grant.



Town of Creston (Lincoln)

Creston's 2011 and 2012 Tech Teams gave the Town direction for securing funding to replace their reservoir.

Now: A geotechnical investigation of the site is complete and the project is now in the design phase, scheduled to go to construction in 2014. The project received funding in the form of a CDBG General Purpose grant, USDA Rural Development loan/grant, and PWTf Pre-Construction loan.



City of Tonasket (Okanogan)

The City participated in a Tech Team meeting in 2011 to seek assistance in addressing health and safety issues related to sewage disposal.

Now: This recently completed project decommissioned 50 failing septic systems that were responsible for contaminating the local swimming hole, Bonaparte Creek. Fifty homes were connected to the City's wastewater system. The project utilized funding from the CDBG General Purpose grant program and the Department of Ecology.



City of Omak (Okanogan)

The goal for Omak's 2010 Tech Team was to secure funding for their wastewater collection system.

Now: The City secured funding through Department of Ecology and a Legislative Direct Appropriation to complete the most urgent remaining sewer main replacements and improvements in the sewer treatment plant to increase plant reliability. The project will be completed in early 2016.



Agencies that may be involved in Tech Teams include, but are not limited to:

- USDA Rural Development
- Office of Regulatory Assistance
- Recreation & Conservation Office
- Transportation Improvement Board
- Departments of Ecology, Health, Transportation, Archaeology & Historic Preservation
- Department of Commerce's Broadband, Community Development Block Grant, Community Economic Revitalization Board, Small Communities Initiative, Growth Management, and Public Works Board.

Associations: Evergreen Rural Water of Washington, Rural Community Assistance Corporation, Association of Washington Cities



Although many Tech Team meetings take place at the annual IACC Conference, they are also held throughout the year statewide, organized by agency and local staff. Sometimes just one meeting is needed; sometimes a group meets over a period of several years.

For more information, contact:

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