

# **IMPROVING POLLUTION LAW COMPLIANCE**

## *The Shortest Route to Cleaner Water*

### **SAMPLE WORKSHOP AGENDA**

#### **Why Pollution Laws Don't Work Without Very Active Public Involvement**

Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty (and clean water): How we could have achieved the 1972 goal of all waters fishable-swimmable by 1983 and zero discharge by 1985.

#### **Inventorizing A Watershed for Pollution Sources**

Compiling what's known:

WaterKeepers, watershed managers, and others

GIS, maps, aerial imagery, etc.

Online databases

Monitoring data

Searching for the unknown:

The windshield survey

Spot monitoring

Stream-shoreline survey

Interviews

#### **How to Report A Specific Pollution Problem So It Quickly Gets Fixed**

Most reports do result in compliance

How to determine when a problem should be reported

Taking the anxiety out of reporting a problem

How to make the report

Who to contact

What to say

What to expect

Follow Up: You get what you inspect, not what you expect

#### **What To Do When A Report Doesn't Result in Compliance?**

Find out why

Verify the why

Work up the chain of command

Contact oversight enforcement agencies  
Ask elected officials to help  
Politicize the issue by reaching out to natural allies  
Legal action when all else fails

### **Improving Compliance Throughout a Watershed or Region**

Example(s) of successful campaigns  
Most compliance issues are easiest to win in a political arena; not the courts  
Expanding public support: The key to gaining the political clout critical to success  
Tactics for expanding public support  
Framing issues so elected officials get the support needed to improve compliance  
Putting it all together: Developing an effective campaign strategy

### **Beyond the Campaign**

Using the momentum from issue-oriented campaigns elect responsible candidates to office.  
Providing good elected officials with the ongoing support needed to institute good watershed management programs.

### **Best Practices: What is Most Effective & Reliable**

Solutions that sound good but don't work  
Best practices that **DO** work: Examples using the top four threats identified through the *Making Pollution Laws Work* survey:  
Watershed Growth Management  
Construction Site Erosion & Sediment Control  
Stormwater Management, Low-Impact Development, ESD, etc.  
Wetland Impacts & Other Habitat Loss

### **Questions/Answers and Discussion of Issues of Concern to Workshop Participants**

#### **For Further Detail Contact:**

Richard Klein  
Community & Environmental Defense Services  
811 Crystal Palace Court  
Owings Mills, Maryland 21117  
410-654-3021 1-800-773-4571 Fax: 410-654-3028  
E-mail: [Rklein@ceds.org](mailto:Rklein@ceds.org) Web Page: [ceds.org](http://ceds.org)