



Barnstable County

REGIONAL GOVERNMENT OF CAPE COD



Credit: The Nature Conservancy



Flowing Forward: SUP Updates

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*“Do unto those downstream as you would
have those upstream do unto you.”*

- WENDELL BERRY

What is a RME?

- A Responsible Management Entity (RME) functions much like a sewer utility, but with a focused mission on managing residential Innovative/Alternative (I/A) septic systems. Its role is crucial in ensuring these systems operate efficiently, safeguarding both public health and the environment.
- Our Mission: At Barnstable County's Septic Utility Program (SUP), we pride ourselves on being a pioneering RME dedicated to the stewardship of I/A systems. Our aim is to support Cape Cod communities in achieving their water quality and public health objectives.

Services We Provide:

RME can oversee every facet of the I/A's lifecycle:

- **Permitting & Installation:** ensure systems meet regulatory & environmental standards
- **Operation & Monitoring:** Continuous oversight to guarantee systems function at their best
- **Long-Term Care:** Providing maintenance & support to extend the system's life & effectiveness.



As the SUP, our commitment is to tailor our services precisely to the needs and desires of the town. Whether it's a comprehensive array of offerings or a minimal approach, we're dedicated to serving as the town envisions.

Why It Matters

- By meticulously managing I/A systems, we gather valuable data & demonstrate the technology's capacity to enhance water quality significantly. This approach offers a dual benefit:
 - Protection for Our Waters: By ensuring the optimal performance of I/A systems, we actively contribute to cleaner, safer water bodies.
 - Peace of Mind for Homeowners: Our comprehensive management means homeowners can trust their system is environmentally compliant and functioning correctly.

A Vital Piece of the Puzzle

- The expanded use of I/A systems represents a significant advancement in our approach to wastewater management. Rather than viewing it as a choice between traditional sewers and I/A systems, it's essential to see each as a critical component in a broader strategy to tackle water quality issues.
- With the past as our guide & the future as our focus, the SUP's role as an RME for Barnstable County is more than just managing systems; it's about pioneering solutions for a healthier environment.
- Together, we're not just managing wastewater; we're safeguarding our community's health and Cape Cod's future.

SUP Updates



- **New Branding:** What's SUP?
- **Partnering with Towns:** Planning support
- **RTP:** Meeting and working on recommended list
- **I/A Database Rebuild:** Phase 2
- **Sampling:** Our sampling efforts are growing
- **In the Works:** Cost calculator for homeowners and towns, 2nd installment contractor meeting, Decision Maker's workshop



Map credit: Lisa Chen, Boston University

New Branding: What's SUP: We've transitioned from RME to Septic Utility Program (SUP) to better reflect our core mission.

Partnering with Towns: Planning support: we are in various stages of partnership with Cape towns, working toward their Watershed Plans.

RTP: Meeting and working on recommended list: We are working to a list of recommended technology. The RTP comprises independent experts unaffiliated with specific manufacturers. Their task is to establish rating criteria for technology based on comprehensive data from our database and external sources, particularly for non-manufacturer-affiliated (non-MA) systems. To ensure impartiality, the data presented to the panel omits system names, allowing for objective evaluation and fair assessment.

I/A Database Rebuild: Phase 2: Our I/A database is being upgraded to improve field accessibility and interface.

Sampling: Our sampling efforts are growing: We have been contracted to take over the sampling of existing I/A systems in accordance with town/DEP regulations.

In the Works: Cost calculator for homeowners and towns, 2nd installment contractor meeting, Decision Maker's workshop: We are working with various 3rd parties to create a plug-in cost calendar for homeowners and towns. After the success of our last contractor meeting, we are looking to have a 2nd one to discern the challenges and opportunities our local contractors face. Lastly, we are looking to formulate a Decision Maker's Workshop to help towns make informed decisions when writing or revising their plans.



Thank You!

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