

Mapping the Course

Progress in managing decentralized wastewater treatment systems

Local Wastewater Management
URI Coastal Institute, Narragansett RI
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www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/isds/index.htm

Topics

- **What is a local wastewater management program?**
- **Local progress, state support in decentralized wastewater management**

RI State and Municipal Roles in Managing Onsite Wastewater Treatment Systems

- DEM Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) program regulates siting, design and installation
- State standards are *minimum* standards.
- Designed for safe and sanitary disposal, does not address cumulative impacts from stormwater, current or future land use.
- Towns may adopt stronger standards.
- ***Maintenance*** is the responsibility of the system owner and town.

Basic elements of a local wastewater management program

1. Needs Assessment and Plan
2. Public education
3. Financial incentives
4. Inventory and tracking database
5. Inspection, maintenance and repair ordinance
6. Phase out cesspools
7. Siting and treatment standards

SAFEWATER

A community effort to protect, recycle and sustain local water resources

State Support for local management

1. Strong State Enabling Legislation for Wastewater Management Districts (1987)

Authorizes the establishment of wastewater management districts for inspection and maintenance.

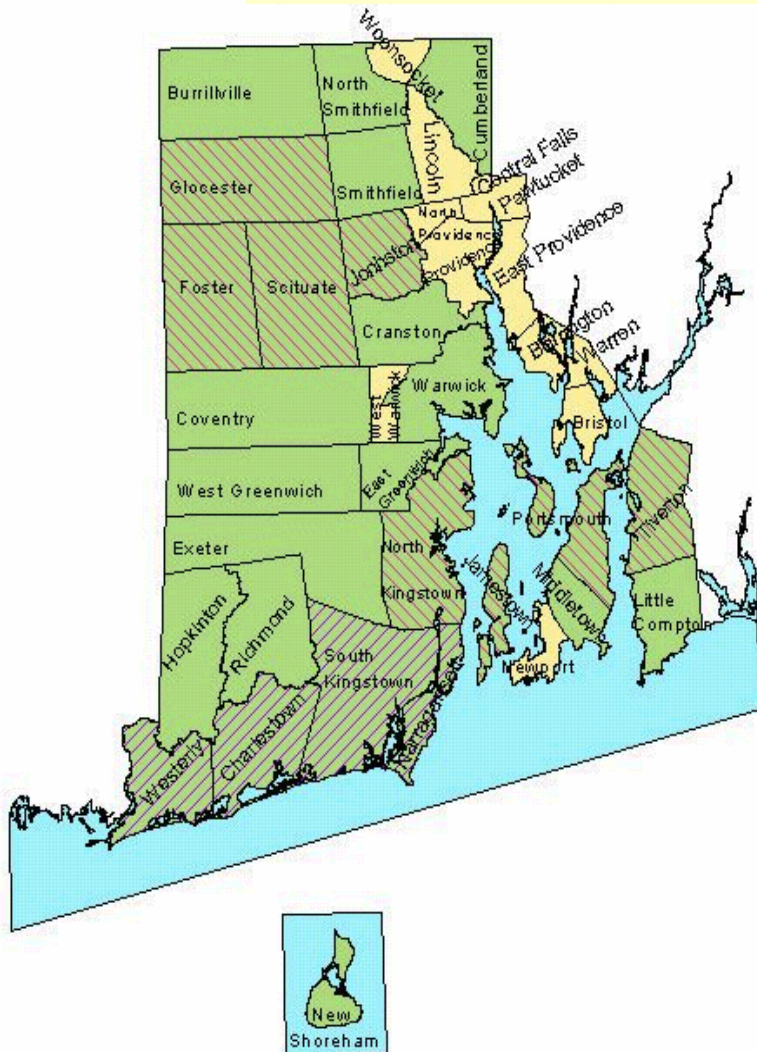
2. Landmark Zoning Enabling Legislation (1991)

Promotes innovative land management techniques.

3. RIDEM Technical and Financial Support

- Community Septic System Loan Fund.
- Grants to cities and towns to develop wastewater plans (Section 319 Grants).
- Septic System Check-Up: The RI Handbook for Inspection.
- Procedure for review and approval of innovative technologies through Technical Review Committee.
- Designer, siting, and inspection certification.

DEM Local Wastewater Management Planning Grants



29 out of 39 towns participate.

>50% of towns have a wwmgt program or are preparing a plan.

At least 7 of these have a mandatory inspection program

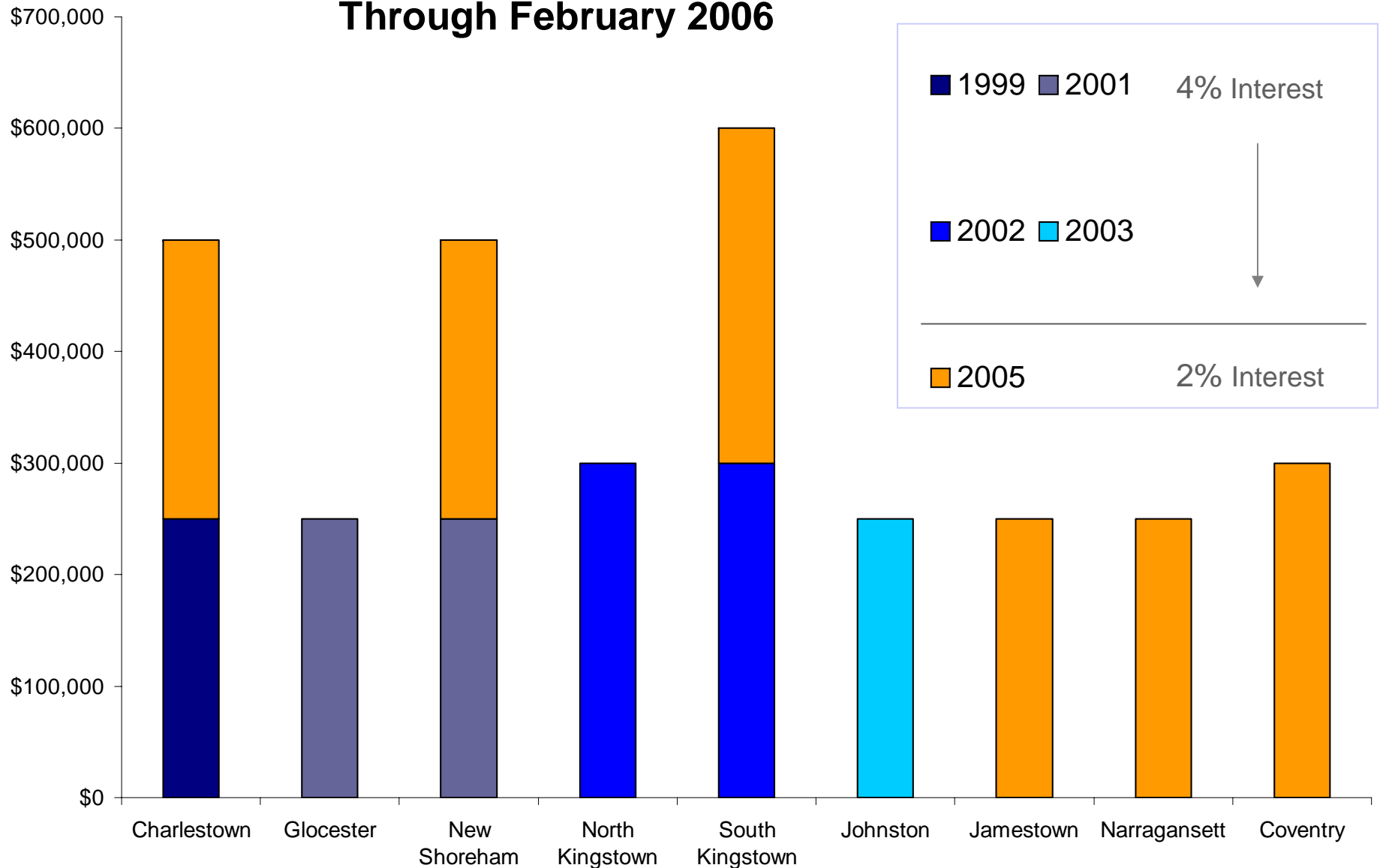
Community Septic System Loan Program



Sponsored by RI Clean Water Finance Agency
Uses State Revolving Loan Fund
RI Housing Corporation acts as financial intermediary

- Town must have state-approved wastewater management plan
- 0% interest rate to municipality.
- 2% interest rate to residential borrower (4% pre-2005)
- 10 year pay-back
- Max. loan increased from \$15 to \$25,000.
- No borrower income restrictions.

RI Community Septic System Loans Approved Through February 2006



Total \$3,200,000 approved



DEM partnership in URI Training and technical assistance

- Classes, workshops and tours at Onsite Training Center

- Target regulators, designers, installers, inspectors, local officials, homeowners, realtors.
- Technical support -phone hotline.
- Demonstration projects – more than 50 systems





RIDEM ISDS Program Resources on the web

**[www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron
/water/permits/isds/index.htm](http://www.dem.ri.gov/programs/benviron/water/permits/isds/index.htm)**