

What Is AWWA?



The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is the world's largest educational and scientific organization dedicated to the promotion of safe drinking water. The Association's 57,000 members, including more than 1,400 members in Indiana, work as community water providers, federal and state regulators, environmentalists, academics and scientists, and reside in all 50 states, Canada and Mexico. Our 4,600 utility members serve 80 percent of the U.S. population.

The Indiana Section of AWWA has more than 1,200 members, including representatives from 380 drinking water providers and 340 vendors, consultants and independent engineers. The organization is dedicated to the education of the public on the importance of safe and adequate water and to keeping its members up-to-date on requirements, regulations and technology in the industry.

Recent projects and partnerships with the Indiana Rural Water Association (IRWA) include:

- Established and supported a toll-free Drinking Water Help Line, a resource for water systems to call with issues and concerns, from 1999 to 2001.
- Developed and conducted 24 workshops to present IDEM's "Water Monitoring Requirements & Proper Sampling Techniques for Transient Noncommunity Water Systems" handbook (2001-2002).
- Wrote two Drinking Water Guidance Manuals (one for Community Water Systems and one for Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems) and conducted 12 workshops around the state. The DWGM won the 2004 Small Systems Award from National AWWA (2003-2004).
- Currently developing Indiana Water Operator Training (workshop lessons, reference manual, Web site, and other materials) for 900+ grandparented water operators and newly certified operators. AWWA/IRWA members will conduct 144 workshops and establish a mentoring system to ensure high standards for operators. (2005-2008)

In addition, the Indiana Section presents the Clarity in Reporting awards each year, to journalists who do outstanding work covering drinking water issues, and scholarships to schools so teachers can develop water-related curriculum. The Indiana Section also raises approximately \$40,000 for improved systems and water quality for third-world countries with our Water for People program. Our 2005-2006 goal for this program is \$50,000.

AWWA is ready to provide Indiana state and federal legislators with the best information available on the status of drinking water today and the challenges that remain. Whether the issue is water rights, water quality, conservation, infrastructure, source water protection, contaminant listing, health research, or treatment practices, AWWA has materials and experts ready to assist you. Feel free to contact any of the Water Utility Council members (on the back of this page) when your work turns to drinking water issues.

Key Facts

- Only 1% of the Earth's water is fresh water available to for humans to drink. (97% of the Earth's water is salt water, 2% is frozen)
- The U.S. has fresh water resources totaling about 660 trillion gallons.
- Americans tap into about 341 billion gallons of those resources every day.
- The U.S. withdraws more water from its resources than any other country in the world.
- There are three types of public drinking water systems in Indiana:
 - Community systems (e.g., municipal water supplies and mobile home parks)
 - Nontransient noncommunity water systems (e.g., schools and factories)
 - Transient noncommunity water systems (e.g., churches, restaurants and campgrounds)
- There are 840 community water systems in Indiana. They provide about 88% of Hoosiers with their tap water.
- About 55% of Indiana residents receive drinking water from a ground water supply (nearly 4,300 systems); 45% of Indiana residents receive their drinking water from a surface water supply used by 127 systems.
- According to a survey conducted by AWWA, 82% of large water utilities across the nation have their own water laboratories on site.
- Water utilities monitor for more than 100 contaminants on a regular basis.
- More than 94% of American water utilities are in full compliance with health-based federal regulations annually.

Sources:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Factoids: Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics for 2004"
 Indiana Department of Environmental Management, Drinking Water Branch

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