

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2012

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Susquehanna



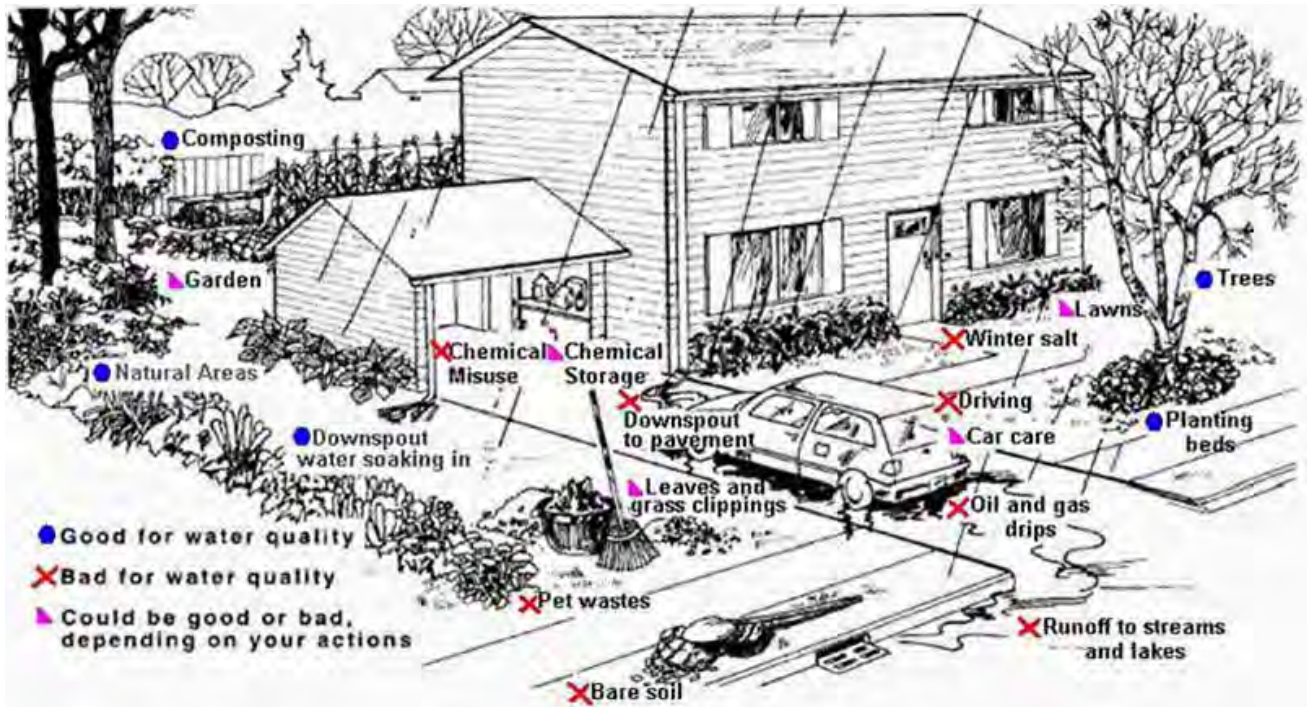
GREENWAY

Protecting Berwick's Drinking Water

The quality of drinking water affects public health and the economic well-being of every community. Once a water supply source becomes contaminated, clean up can take years and may not be possible. It is also costly and the required treatment adds to the operating costs of the water treatment facility. The expense of treating polluted water or finding a new source of drinking water can be avoided through source water protection.

Source water protection is a method of safeguarding a community water supply by preventing pollution of public water supply wells. This is achieved by effectively managing potential pollutant sources in the area contributing water to the well. Source water protection is a community effort – everyone has an important part to play in protecting drinking water.

The Berwick Water District has completed a Source Water Protection Plan that identifies potential risks to its water supply and strategies for preventing pollution. With grant funding from the Water Resources Education Network (WREN), a Source Water Environmental Education Team (SWEET) has been organized



to implement the top strategies for protecting Berwick's source water. Members of the SWEET team include, Pennsylvania American Water, Berwick Borough, Salem Township, Columbia County Conservation District, Briar Creek Watershed Association, PA Department of Environment Protection, PA Department of Conservation and Recreation, Susquehanna Greenway Partnership, and the Central Susquehanna Community Foundation.

Berwick's SWEET team encourages members of the community to protect their drinking water by:

- disposing of used motor oil at a garage that will recycle it
- using hazardous products as directed and take them to a county waste collection site for disposal
- limit the use of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides on your lawn and garden
- recognize and manage possible sources of pollution on your property
- don't flush old or unused medications down the toilet
- conserve water

For more information and locations that accept used motor oil, or other household hazardous products, for recycling, visit www.CLEANUP.org on the web or call 1 (800) CLEANUP. To report an environmental incident, such as a spill, call the Department of Environmental Protection at 1 (800) 541-2050.

The SWEET team would like to expand their educational efforts to address source water protection in all of Columbia County. If you have an interest in clean drinking water and would be like to be part of the team, please contact: Bridget Kane (570) 522-7275. For more information on source water protection, contact Pennsylvania American Water at (570) 752-7921, the Columbia County Conservation District at (570) 784-1310 ext: 102, or the Borough of Berwick at (570) 752-2733.

For more information, visit <http://susquehannagreenway.org/publications> and click on Education & Reference Materials.

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