



## **USDA-CSREES 2007 National Water Quality Conference**

### **Training and Education Materials Developed for University Curriculums, Operation and Maintenance Practitioners and Installers**

As funding for centralized wastewater collection and treatment has diminished, there is increased interest in seeking the most cost effective wastewater infrastructure. Options include onsite, clustered and centralized collection, treatment, and reuse. Decentralized wastewater technologies can reduce construction costs, improve water quality, lower energy consumption, replenish groundwater, protect public health, encourage recycling and reuse of wastewater, and reduce infrastructure requirements. The Consortium of Institutes for Decentralized Wastewater Treatment (CIDWT) is an independent group of educational institutions, industry organizations and agencies cooperating on decentralized wastewater education, training, and research. CIDWT continues to be at the forefront of a coordinated national effort to focus, facilitate, and encourage research, training, and education related to decentralized wastewater treatment. This paper will describe this national effort in terms of standardized, peer reviewed education and training materials generated for use in university settings as well as practitioner training venues; educational opportunities offered to citizens, decision-makers, regulators, industry professionals, practitioners, and consultants; and research conducted to address decentralized wastewater treatment issues. It will illustrate the interdisciplinary partnership between engineering and the sciences that has resulted from advancement of new approaches and tools for wastewater treatment and dispersal. Finally, the paper will describe the multi-sector collaboration and communication among CIDWT institutions, professionals, and the public.

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