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## NEWS from the CWC

### CWC reaches septic repair milestone

MARGARETVILLE, October 23, 2012 – The number of residential and small business septic systems repaired or replaced by the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC) has passed the 4,000 mark.

The CWC has been addressing failed on-site wastewater systems in the Catskill-Delaware NYC Watershed since 1997 when the program was funded under the NYC Watershed Memorandum of Agreement. Full-time property owners receive 100% of eligible costs of such repairs. Part-time residents are reimbursed 60% of eligible costs. The average cost of repair/replacement is \$16,000.

As of September 30, the total number of systems paid for under the program reached 4,004. These included one- and two-family residences, home-based and small businesses, and temporarily managed repairs in hamlets where municipal wastewater systems were or are planned.

The program has kept wastewater from potentially contaminating groundwater and streams in a five county area where New York City gets most of its drinking water. The bulk of the repairs to septic tanks and drain fields have been in Delaware County, followed by Sullivan, Ulster, Greene and Schoharie.

Failed systems located within 250 feet of a watercourse are currently eligible for the program. Property owners who think they may have a problem are invited to call the CWC at 845-586-1400 to schedule a site visit from technical staff members who can determine eligibility and explain the program.

Owners of failed systems outside the 250-foot distance who can prove economic hardship may also be assisted by the CWC.

A Maintenance Program is also available to property owners whose systems were repaired or replaced since 1995 and are at least three years old. The CWC pays for half the cost of pumping and inspecting their septic tanks.

Participation in CWC programs is voluntary. The NYC Department of Environmental Protection inspects and approves all septic installations.

The CWC is a non-profit, Local Development Corporation responsible for several environmental protection, economic development and education programs in the five-county New York City Watershed West of the Hudson River.

For more information, go to [www.cwconline.org](http://www.cwconline.org), or call toll-free 877-928-7433; or 845-586-1400.