Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker 2.0 - 2019

Introduction

BACKGROUND:

The Nutrients Working Group ("NWG"), a partnership between ACWA, EPA, and ASDWA, began work in 2014 to identify a set of measures that demonstrate progress toward nutrient reduction in the nation's waters. States recognized that while there was a national metric tracking state adoption of numeric nitrogen and phosphorus criteria for lakes, estuaries, and flowing waters, there was an opportunity to also measure the myriad of other approaches states take to reduce nutrient pollution.

The NWG concluded that the best way to begin to track and demonstrate progress on nutrient reduction would be a short and easy-to-complete form of agreed upon measures that states would complete on a routine basis. The Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker Version 1.0 – 2017 ("Tracker 1.0") was the culmination of that effort.

Released to states in September 2017, Tracker 1.0 sought data and information for multiple nutrients topic areas: state strategies, monitoring, assessment, non-point sources, point sources, and drinking water. EPA contributed national data for eight (8) of the questions. Thirty-one (31) states, including the District of Columbia, submitted responses to the Tracker. The NWG released a Report in March 2018 summarizing the data received.

The Nutrients Reduction Progress Tracker Version 2.0 - 2019 ("Tracker 2.0") follows Tracker 1.0, seeking to both track state progress on nutrients pollution reduction efforts since 2017 and also seek more detail on state programs.

ACWA asks your support in completing Tracker 2.0 to demonstrate progress in reducing nutrient pollution to our waters nationwide.

THE NUTRIENT REDUCTION PROGRESS TRACKER 2.0 - 2018:

The Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker is made up of six sections:

I. Statewide Strategy/Monitoring/Assessment
II. Nonpoint Source
III. Point Source
IV. Drinking Water
V. Other
VI. Survey Feedback

Please answer as best you can. You will likely need to consult others in your state to complete the tracker. For open-ended questions/comments, please respond in one or two short paragraphs. We will determine if follow-up is necessary based on the answers provided.

Some questions will have answers provided by EPA. Those questions are provided and will be flagged for your information.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Patrick McGuire at mpmcguire@acwa-us.org or 202-756-0604. Thank you for taking the time to complete the Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker 2.0 - 2019!

* 1. Please provide your state.

* 2. Please provide a name and email for a single person of contact from your state.

* 3. Did your state complete the Nutrients Reduction Progress Tracker 1.0 - 2017?

- Yes
- No

If not, why?

Part I: Statewide Strategy/Monitoring/Assessment

4. Is ambient nutrient monitoring available in your state to assess reductions and trends (e.g., baseline, long term, flow)? Select all that apply in your state.

- [ ] Statewide Waters (N)
- [ ] Statewide Waters (P)
- [ ] Watershed (N)
- [ ] Watershed (P)
- [ ] Key Waterbodies (N)
- [ ] Key Waterbodies (P)
- [ ] Exported from State (N)
- [ ] Exported from State (P)

Additional information or comments:

5. Is your state assessing trends in nutrient loading using baseline and continued monitoring in the following range of waterbodies?

	Flowing Water: Yes/No	If Yes, Choose One: Less Nutrients/More Nutrients/Constant/Unclear	Non-Flowing Water (e.g., lakes, reservoirs, ponds, etc.): Yes/No	If Yes, Choose One: Less Nutrients/More Nutrients/Constant/Unclear
Individual Waterbodies (N)				
Individual Waterbodies (P)				
Small Watersheds (N)				
Small Watersheds (P)				
Large Watersheds (N)				
Large Watersheds (P)				
Export from State (N)				
Export from State (P)				
Other				

Additional information or comments:

6. Has your state observed and recorded demonstrated changes in water quality in state waterbodies for the following parameters? Please choose from the choices below.

	Yes/No/Not Evaluated	If Yes, Choose One: Better Water Quality/Worse Water Quality/Constant/Unclear
N		
P		
Algal Blooms		
D.O. Fluctuation		
pH Fluctuation		
Aquatic Life Health		
Macrobiotic Indices		
Algal Indicators (e.g., Chlorophyll-A)		
Other		

Additional information or comments:

7. Are paired nitrogen (N) and biological monitoring available for the following water types in your state?

	Yes/No/Not Applicable
Lake/Reservoir	
Wadable Streams	
Large Rivers	
Estuaries	
Marine Waters	
Wetlands	
Other	

Additional information or comments on biological parameters monitored:

8. Are paired phosphorus (P) and biological monitoring available for the following water types in your state?

	Yes/No/Not Applicable
Lake/Reservoir	
Wadable Streams	
Large Rivers	
Estuaries	
Marine Waters	
Wetlands	
Other	

Additional information or comments on biological parameters monitored:

9. Please describe in a narrative manner what your state's monitoring data is showing relative to nutrient pollution reduction.

10. Does your state have a nutrient reduction strategy? If "Yes", please include a link/reference to your state's strategy.

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If you chose "Yes" above, please include a link/reference to your state's strategy here:

11. If you answered "Yes" on Question 10, does your state's strategy identify quantitative goals?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not Applicable

Additional comments:

12. If you answered "Yes" on Question 10, please provide detail on your state's plan and list observed water quality effects.

13. What is the percent of assessed lake/impoundment acres impaired due to nutrient-related causes (e.g., hypoxia, algal blooms, fish kills, etc.) in your state? **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

14. What is the percent of assessed stream/river miles impaired due to nutrient-related causes (e.g., hypoxia, algal blooms, fish kills, etc.) in your state? **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

15. If applicable, what is the percent of assessed estuary acres impaired due to nutrient-related causes (e.g., hypoxia, algal blooms, fish kills, etc.) in your state? **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

Part II: Nonpoint Source

16. Please provide the number of 319/Nonpoint Source projects, number and type of BMPs, and first year load reduction estimates per 319 Grant Reporting and Tracking System (GRTS)? **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

17. Please provide the estimated pounds of TP and/or TN/TIN load reduced from 319 projects in your state in the last calendar year. **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

Pounds TN

Pounds TP

18. Does your state clean water department have a relationship with its corresponding state agriculture or state conservation agency?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If "Yes", please indicate which and briefly describe:

19. If you answered "Yes" on Question 18, describe how that relationship has helped to reduce nutrient pollution (e.g., market-based methods, partnerships, monitoring, etc.), if at all.

20. Does your state (i.e., departments of clean water, environment, natural resources, agriculture, etc.) have a working relationship with your state NRCS office and/or local conservation district (e.g., data sharing agreement, MOU, etc.)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If "Yes", please indicate which and briefly describe:

21. If you answered "Yes" on Question 20, has the relationship helped with locating BMPs and quantifying associated nutrient reductions?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No
- ◯ Not applicable

Additional comments:

22. If you answered "Yes" on Question 20, please describe how that relationship has helped to reduce nutrient pollution.

23. Does your state have nutrient management planning programs relative to fertilizer and manure (either state or local) beyond federal minimum CAFO permit requirements? If "Yes", please include a link/reference to the program(s).

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

If you chose "Yes" above, please include a link/reference to the program(s) here.

Part III: Point Source

24. Please provide the number and percent of major sewage treatment plants with numeric discharge limits for N and/or P compounds. **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

25. Please provide the number and percent of major sewage treatment plants with N and/or P monitoring requirements for monitoring only purposes or for compliance with an effluent limit. **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

26. How many major wastewater treatment facilities known or expected to be nutrient sources (municipal and industrial) are in your state?

27. How many CAFOs/AFOs are in your state that have Nutrient Management Plans?

Part IV: Drinking Water

28. On a scale of 1 through 5 (1 least, 5 greatest), in your state how significant of a concern is nutrient pollution in drinking water sources (groundwater and/or surface water)?

Least Greatest

○ ○ ○ ○ ○

29. Does your state clean water program have a relationship with its corresponding safe drinking water program?

○ Yes

○ No

Please briefly describe:

30. If you answered "Yes" on Questions 29, please describe how that relationship has helped reduce nutrient pollution, if at all.

31. Please provide the number and percent of public water systems in your state and the population they serve that violated the nitrate MCL in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018. **[EPA will provide this information, please review]**

32. In the past year, have harmful algal blooms/cyanotoxins caused a significant issue in any of your public water systems (i.e., aid necessary to mitigate the bloom in finished drinking water, advisories, etc)?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Please briefly describe:

33. If you answered "Yes" on Question 32, please describe how your state responded to the algal bloom issues.

34. Please provide your state's best estimate of the number and percent of public water systems actively operating to meet the nitrate MCL.

35. If your state has facilities actively operating to meet the nitrate MCL, please indicate how many fall in the listed categories.

Installed Treatment	
Blending	
Both	
Other (Please Indicate)	

36. Please provide your state's best estimate of the number and percent of systems that have had to abandon wells due to nutrient pollution.

37. Please describe any other partnerships or mechanisms active in your state addressing nutrient pollution for drinking water.

Part V: Other

38. Is your state utilizing market-based methods (e.g., water quality trading) to reduce nutrient pollution?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If "Yes", please describe.

39. Please briefly describe any other efforts your state is employing to make progress on reducing nutrient pollution in state waters (e.g., TMDLs, MS4 permitting, optimization for nutrient reduction, urban non-point source pollution management, state tracking of BMPs, innovative approaches, etc.)

40. Please briefly describe the one nutrient pollution reduction effort in your state about which you are most proud.

41. Please briefly describe your state's biggest challenge regarding reducing nutrient pollution.

42. Please provide an estimate of how much money your clean water department spends responding to nutrient pollution-related issues.

43. Please provide an estimate of how much money your clean water department spends working to reduce nutrient pollution.

44. If necessary, please use this space to clarify or add context to any of your tracker responses.

Part VI: Tracker Feedback

45. How much time did you (and your office) spend completing the tracker?

46. Is your state okay with ACWA sharing your response to the public and/or EPA?

- ◯ Yes
- ◯ No

Comments:

47. Thank you for completing the Nutrient Reduction Progress Tracker. If you would like, please provide feedback on the tracker below.