


PROJECT FACT SHEET

Project Name:	Decentralized Onsite Wastewater Treatment Facility Survey and Community Education	Completion date:	6/30/2023
Project Location:	Hidalgo County, TX	Project ID:	1294
Goal :	Reduce watershed pollution resulting from improper onsite wastewater treatment.	Technical Rep:	Dr. Anish Jantaria
Contact Person	Tommy Ricks, Director of Environmental Services, tommy.ricks@communitiesu.org , 479-443-2700	EPA:	Maria Sisneros
		NADB:	Briselda Duarte

Pre-Project Conditions			
CU had no previous history with the area prior to this review. Therefore, none were identified.			
Project Objective			
Provide training and data acquisition to reduce onsite pollution in Hidalgo County, TX from malfunctioning or improperly maintained OWTFs.			
Project Scope		Project Cost	
Conduct stakeholder meetings, develop training materials, facilitate homeowner training on proper OWTF maintenance and operations, and collect GIS points of OWTFs in Hidalgo County.	B2025 awarded amount		\$10,000
	Total project cost		\$115,000*
	Project Length:		12 months
	Benefited population:		1,241,000

The Results	
Outcomes	Outputs
Sustainable long-term solutions to accomplish necessary outcomes to achieve the <u>Priority Area 2 goal</u> of “ <u>Improving Water Quality</u> ” in Hidalgo County, Texas with outputs including GIS asset surveying of failing or absent Decentralized Onsite Wastewater Treatment Facilities (OWTF); developing and implementing a Community Outreach and Education Campaign to educate rural and colonias homeowners on the importance of and best management practices of properly maintaining OWTF to eliminate the <u>discharge of untreated sewage</u> (Objective 6) into the Rio Grande River watershed.	<p>Completion of a GIS Mapping Surveying and Analysis of Decentralized OWTF systems in Hidalgo County with layering of 937+ identified Colonias to determine highest risk areas.</p> <p>Hosting of a Stakeholder Convening to develop a comprehensive strategy to improve onsite wastewater treatment in Hidalgo County by coordinating and inviting key stakeholders of local, state, and federal agencies, academic institutions, and local non-governmental organizations including community-based organizations and philanthropic foundations.</p>

Development, production, and printing of bilingual OWTF Best Management Practices for Operations and Maintenance Fact Sheets.

Community Outreach to educate homeowners will be conducted in high-impact Colonias using the OWTF BMP fact sheets in one-on-one engagements and small group meetings."

Significant project contributions

The result of this work will reduce and ultimately eliminate untreated sewage from failing or absent OWTFs in Hidalgo County, TX that will help to achieve the Border 2025 Priority Area 2 goal of Improving Water Quality.

*We leveraged at least \$15,000 of other funding to cover our remaining expenses on this grant.

