

**The Water Environment Federation and the National Onsite  
Wastewater Recycling Association Announce New Partnership**  
*Agreement will leverage resources to support integrated water resource  
management*

Alexandria, Va. – The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the National Onsite Wastewater Recycling Association (NOWRA) — a not-for-profit organization that educates and represents the decentralized systems and onsite wastewater treatment profession — are pleased to announce a significant new partnership that will take effect on February 1, 2010. Passed this month by the organizations' boards of trustees, the resolution formalizes a three-year agreement to closely collaborate and promote a shared vision of an integrated and holistic approach to water, stormwater, and wastewater management.

Currently, one-quarter of the U.S. population and one-third of all new residential and commercial development use decentralized systems for wastewater treatment. Although the water and wastewater sector is heavily segmented, there is a growing consensus within the sector that water and wastewater management strategies must be integrated and various approaches considered in order to meet the evolving needs of the public and address emerging environmental challenges. To that end, leaders from both WEF and NOWRA have agreed that a strategic partnership can leverage their respective resources and capabilities to advance their mutual goals and interests.

Specifically, WEF and NOWRA will explore collaboration on educational events; increased content and options for distance learning; joint publications; and offering more varied perspectives about water quality issues to their respective members. In addition, WEF and NOWRA will work closely to share association management resources to help direct emphasis to mission critical activities. Part of this special relationship will include NOWRA staff and offices relocating to WEF's Alexandria, Va.-based headquarters in the coming weeks.

For more information about WEF and NOWRA, visit [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org) and [www.nowra.org](http://www.nowra.org).