

# TMACOG NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 30, 2008

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## **Last Chance for Septic System Replacement Money**

A 3-year program that helps homeowners pay to replace their septic systems will conclude this summer but still has some money left. A grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) helps to replace failed systems that are affecting water quality in critical areas targeted for attention in Hancock, Ottawa, Sandusky, and Wood County. The goal of the program is replacement of systems that have clearly failed, with visible sewage discharge to the Portage River or its tributaries. People in those counties who suspect that they have a defective home sewage treatment system should call their county health department right away and ask about the program. The grant will pay up to \$4000 or half the cost of the replacement system.

“If we don’t spend all the money in the grant by the end of June,” says Elaine Moebius, Portage River Coordinator at TMACOG, “we have to send it back. We are trying to let everyone know, this is a substantial grant that will help you get a new septic system, and protect water in the Portage River. Call your health department now!”

Older systems are more likely to be defective: the working life of a properly maintained home sewage treatment system is 20 to 30 years. This project is for residential systems only, not for businesses or institutions. It will not pay for sewer taps, or for systems that discharge off-lot.

Installation time is short for homeowners and contractors to complete the work before the grant runs out. Applications for replacement systems will be accepted only until May 23. By June 24, all invoices for work completed must be submitted to the health department. By June 30, the grant will be completed and TMACOG will disburse all funds to contractors and homeowners.

To apply for the grant homeowners should contact their county health departments:

- Hancock County Health Department, Lindsay Summit, 419-424-7869
- Ottawa County Health Department, Scott Young, RS, Director of Environmental Health, 419-734-6800
- Sandusky County Health Department, Mary Dennis, 419-334-6372
- Wood County Health Department, Jerry Bingham, RS, Supervisor of Environmental Health, 419-352-8402

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This product or publication was financed in part through a grant from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Environmental Protection Agency, under the provisions of Section 319(h) of the Clean Water Act. The contents and views, including any opinions, findings, or conclusions or recommendation, contained in this publication are those of the authors and have not been subject to any U.S. EPA or Ohio EPA peer or administrative review and may not necessarily reflect the views of either Agency, and no official endorsement should be inferred.