

Existing Stormwater Utilities in Other States, including SUs Organized as Authorities or Special Districts

More than 1,600 SWUs exist in the United States as of 2018, according to a survey by Western Kentucky University conducted annually since 2007 (Campbell, 2018). The survey identifies stormwater utilities in 40 states, with seven states (MN, FL, WI, WA, OH, IA and TX) supporting more than 100 each. However, there are relatively few in the northeast US:

- New Jersey 0
- Connecticut 0
- New York 1
- Massachusetts 9
- Pennsylvania 19

Populations served by an individual SWU range from less than 100 to more than 1 million. Another survey of 75 SWUs (Black & Veatch, 2018 and 2016) found the following interesting results:

- 88 percent serve an individual municipality
- Seven percent serve a county
- 25 percent operate as part of a water/wastewater utility
- 32 percent operate as part of the municipal government
- 38 percent operate as an independent utility

- 94 percent receive more than three-quarters of their budgets from user fees
- 11 percent operate systems that contained combined sewers

The same study indicates that five percent of stormwater utilities are run through a regional or multi-municipal authority. Here are some examples:

- The Wyoming Valley Sanitary Authority in Luzerne County, PA is an example of a regional SU organized under an existing utility authority. The WVSA is the MS4 administrator for 32 municipalities. Formation of the SU was driven by MS4 permits that require pollutant reductions to meet water quality goals in Chesapeake Bay.
- The Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, which serves the Cleveland metropolitan area, administers a stormwater program. Its fee covers the district's cost of providing a regional stormwater management program and is included on the customers' sewer bills. The district says it was uniquely positioned to manage stormwater because of "cross-community boundaries requiring multi-jurisdictional solutions and coordination."