



Ontario Onsite
Wastewater Association

Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Our Vision

To be the driving force and leading source of knowledgeable professional expertise for onsite and decentralized wastewater management.

Our Mission

To strengthen and reinforce the benefits and value of onsite and decentralized wastewater management through education, advocacy for sound policies & practices, and member engagement.



OOWA has over 500 members and growing while addressing the most important topics in the wastewater industry today. Our membership is made up of a wide array of industry professionals, including:

People Power

OOWA has been and continues to be governed by a **proactive volunteer board** of directors comprised of representatives from multiple sectors of the industry. Over the years the association has moved from a strictly volunteer effort to having salaried staff that support and carry out daily operations and programming activities that help achieve the goals determined by both its working committees and its board of directors.



The Association is the front line of support for permanent onsite and decentralized wastewater systems in Ontario thus fulfilling the vision set out by its founding members.

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The Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association was formed in 1999 to serve as one organization representing all the various interests of the onsite wastewater industry. Since then, the association has grown in the scope of its activities, its membership and its influence.

Core Value Statements



Environmental Preservation: Professional onsite and decentralized wastewater management is a means to preserve our precious natural resources



Economic Sustainability: Onsite and decentralized wastewater management provides permanent, cost effective servicing solutions for communities and citizens.



Healthy Society: Effective onsite and decentralized wastewater management is vital to the protection of human health, lifestyle and the enjoyment of water resources.



Committees

OOWA's committees develop and implement programs, events, relationships, technical review and polices & procedures that benefit the membership. Each committee creates an annual workplan to identify objectives to achieve that address the overall goals of the Association, consistent with the strategic plan and board directives.



Finance Committee

Responsible for oversight of all financial activity of the Association.



Governance Committee

Assists the Board of Directors in matters of policies and procedure, including by-law issues within the organization.



External Relations Committee

Develops and maintains relationships with relevant representatives of provincial governments, agencies, industry organizations, and partner organizations.



Professional Development Committee

Provides ongoing member support through the Professional In-Development Program, Registered Professional Program, and other training initiatives. These services are designed to anticipate, facilitate and coordinate the ongoing training needs of our membership.



Membership Services Committee

Ensures value for members through outreach & connection, sourcing of valuable membership benefits, and the development & implementation of member focused programs.



Events Committee

Responsible for the development, coordination, and delivery of all outreach and membership events including, but not limited to, the annual conference and exhibition, regional meetings and symposiums.



Onsite Technical Committee

Recommends changes to existing codes and other related rules and regulations to improve the technical aspects of the distributed wastewater industry. Develops best practices and technical guidance documents to support practitioners.



Communications Committee

Guide and monitor valuable content for OOWA's communication streams including newsletters, bulletins, website, and social media.

Areas of Focus



Education

Increase collaboration with government for the continuing education of onsite professionals. Partner with colleges and universities to promote careers related to onsite systems amongst young people to help bridge the gap resulting from increased retirements. Develop content for events and communications that will increase the understanding of OOWA, inform the general public of the importance of onsite treatment and for ongoing system maintenance.



Engagement

Build new relationships with other organizations to augment the association's outreach efforts to the general public and industry professionals. Sustain existing partnerships with government to provide industry expertise and guidance for sound policy and consistent regulation.



Leadership

Strengthen the influence of the association by growing our membership and leverage the expertise of members to improve best practices and industry-wide performance. Ensure that all segments of the industry are represented and receive equal benefits from being members.