

*What is Cost Sharing?

Cost Sharing is financial assistance to pay for a portion of the project. The Winnebago County Land and Water Conservation Department has state and local funding sources used for cost sharing the installation of conservation practices, such as, well abandonment projects.



Privately owned well owners (it cannot be a municipal, public, or commercial property well) may be eligible to receive up to 70% of the total cost to properly abandon a well to a maximum of \$1,000.00 per project depending on the resource concern.

Well abandonment projects need to be completed by a Licensed Well Driller or Pump Installer to be eligible for cost sharing.



Bentonite chips being poured into a well during abandonment.



Winnebago County

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WELL ABANDONMENT PROJECTS CONTACT:

Winnebago County
Land & Water Conservation Department
625 E. County Road Y, Suite 100
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Phone: (920) 232-1950
(920) 727-8642

Website: www.co.winnebago.wi.us/lwcd



Winnebago County

Land & Water
Conservation Department

Well Abandonment Cost Share Program



Well Abandonment Cost Share* Program

Why Should I Properly Abandon My Old Well?

Old wells that are left open and/or unused are at risk of having contaminants enter into them and into the groundwater. Old drilled wells can develop cracks in the steel casing that can let contaminants through. Old dug wells were often lined with brick or field stone which does not provide a good barrier to prevent contaminants from reaching groundwater. Once contaminants reach the groundwater, it is difficult, if not impossible to remove them. Often the contamination will migrate to other wells drawing water from that aquifer.



Old and unused wells may also pose a safety hazard. Old dug wells can be 6 feet across and 50 feet deep or deeper. Serious injury or worse could result if a person or animal fell into an old well.

How Do I Get Started?

The following describes the steps private landowners (it cannot be a municipal, public, or commercial property well) must follow in order to receive cost sharing for a well abandonment project under this program.

- 1) The private well owner completes a Water Quality Improvement Program Application.
- 2) The private well owner requests a cost estimate for the well abandonment project from a Licensed Well Driller or Pump Installer (service provider). *NOTE: If the first estimate exceeds \$500.00, a second estimate is required.*
- 3) A copy of the cost estimate is submitted to the Winnebago County LWCD for review. The LWCD reviews the project and determines eligibility for cost sharing.
- 4) If the project is eligible for cost sharing, a “Cost Share Agreement” (CSA) must be signed by all necessary parties and approved

before any work is done on the well abandonment project. **Private well owners that do not have a signed and approved CSA prior to beginning their project will be denied cost sharing.**

- 5) Once the project is completed, the private well owner pays the service provider in full and requests a signed and dated receipt indicating the amount paid **or** the invoice marked “Paid in Full” signed and dated. The service provider must also properly complete and sign a WDNR Well Abandonment Form 3300-005 and give a copy to the private well owner.
- 6) The private well owner submits these documents to the LWCD for review and reimbursement in accordance with the CSA.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT WELL ABANDONMENT PROJECTS CONTACT:

Winnebago County
Land & Water Conservation Department
625 E. County Road Y, Suite 100
Oshkosh, WI 54901

Phone: (920) 232-1950
(920) 727-8642