

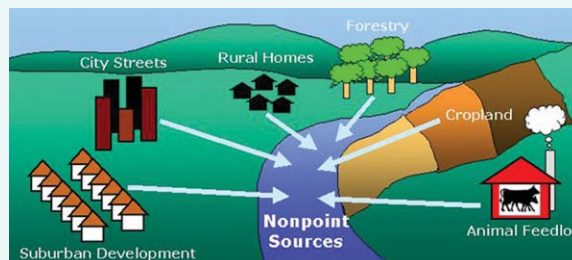


Non-point Source Pollution

Non-point source pollution, unlike point source pollution, comes from many diffuse sources and is difficult to regulate or permit. Whether it comes from cars, pets, yards, or wildlife, non-point source is the leading cause of poor water quality in coastal wetlands. Non-point source pollution enters coastal waters through rainfall events and runoff. With increasing coastal populations and development, there is great concern on preventing non-point source pollution.

Sources of Non-point Source Pollution

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides, and insecticides from residential areas
- Excess nutrients from animal wastes and fertilizers from agricultural areas
- Oil, grease, and toxic chemicals from vehicles and marine vessels
- Sediment eroded away from improperly utilized land
- Salts from irrigation practices
- Acidic leaching from abandoned mines
- Bacteria from livestock waste, pet waste, and faulty septic systems.



Effects of Non-point Source Pollution

- Closed recreation areas and beaches due to *Enterococci* and *E. coli* levels
- Detergents from washing the car increases nitrate levels which promotes plant and algal growth
- Tainted seafood due to algal blooms from excess nutrients
- Oily film or foul smelling wetlands from leaking boats and cars
- Sick or declining bird populations due to improperly used bug sprays
- Fish dying from sediment clogged gills
- Aquatic invertebrates fleeing or dying due to increased salt levels

WE ALL CAN PREVENT NON-POINT SOURCE POLLUTION!

- Keep litter and debris out of the environment and out of storm drains
- Apply garden chemicals at the proper time and in the proper dose
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other chemicals properly.
- Control soil erosion by planting ground cover or utilizing silt fences
- Have your septic system inspected and pumped at least every 3-5 years
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of properly in the garbage
- Participate in coastal and local clean up events



References and Photography Credits:

Clean Water Campaign - <http://www.cleanwatercampaign.com>
 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency website - <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps>



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