

## Project Overview



# The Groundwater Foundation

Educating and motivating people to care for and about groundwater.

### Industrial Assessment Placement

**Intern:** Mahesh Pun

**Major:** Environmental Engineering

**School:** University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### Background & Project Description

In Nebraska, around 85% of the drinking water comes from groundwater, and there are 746 non-community public water systems providing people with drinking water. An educational framework was developed for the Groundwater Foundation that would help in developing awareness and knowledge about non-community water supply systems, groundwater pollution, and measures for its prevention.



### Pollution Prevention Benefits and Results

The educational framework developed can be used by individuals providing pollution prevention (P2) technical assistance to educate business owners and operators of non-community public water systems about minimizing the risks of possible groundwater and drinking water well contamination. This can lead to better public health and safety, especially for infants, older people and pregnant women who are more vulnerable to contaminated drinking water. By minimizing the risk of groundwater and water well pollution, businesses can realize savings in costs of groundwater treatment and remediation, as well as maintain good relations with the public and state and local regulatory agencies. Table 1 below shows the projected cost savings over a 10-year period for all non-community public water systems in Nebraska, assuming they receive and respond to technical assistance education and operational recommendations.

**Table 1: Projected Cost Savings Post Technical Assistance over 10-year Period**

Year	Total Groundwater Treatment Costs without Assistance	Total Groundwater Treatment Costs with P2 Technical Assistance	Costs Savings from Groundwater Pollution Prevention
2008	591630	585264	6366
2009	646485	593752	52733
2010	661340	602241	59099
2011	678317	650920	27396
2012	735293	661345	73948
2013	752270	671956	80314
2014	811369	722567	88802
2015	870468	733178	137291
2016	891689	743788	147901
2017	952910	794399	158511