

A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council region, showing county boundaries. The map is centered on the text.

H-GAC's Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program

What is an OSSF?



- On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF), often referred to as a Septic System, but not all OSSFs are septic systems
 - Conventional (Septic System) OSSFs
 - Aerobic Treatment Unit OSSFs - ATUs
- OSSFs are used in areas where centralized residential **sewer is not available**
- Within the 13-county Houston-Galveston AC region there are more than 375,000 OSSFs, approximately 60% of which are unpermitted.
 - 18,684 new permitted systems in 2023
 - 144,515 total permitted systems as of 2023
 - Estimated 230,000 unpermitted systems

Why worry about my OSSF?

OSSF Malfunctions and Failures



Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program

- H-GAC's Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program provides assistance to qualifying homeowners to repair or replace malfunctioning or failing on-site sewage facilities (OSSFs).
- Funding may also be used to provide pump-outs, sludge hauling, etc.
- Eligible homeowners are not charged for any portion of the cost of the project (no homeowner cost share).

Applicant Qualifications

To qualify, applicants must meet the following conditions:

- **Ownership & Residence**: the applicant must own and reside in the home (no rental properties, vacation homes, etc.) and must own both the home and the property
- **Eligible Counties**: the applicant must reside in Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller, or Wharton County.
- **Combined Household Income**: the income of all members of the household must not exceed 80% of the median income for the county
- **Inspection**: an inspection of the OSSF must be conducted to verify failure or malfunction
- Homeowners may be eligible for funding even if under enforcement action for violation of TCEQ rules (we have multiple funding sources are available).

Estimated Costs

Item	Approximate Cost
OSSF Installation	\$9,000 - \$15,000
Tie-In to Existing Sewer Service Lines	\$3,000 - \$5,200
Aerator or Effluent Pump Replacement	\$500 - \$900
Pump-Out and Sludge Hauling	\$500 - \$700
2-Year Maintenance Agreement	\$300 - \$500
Other OSSF Repairs	Varies

H-GAC Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program

- Currently the Water Resources Group at H-GAC has several programs that deal with repairs, replacement, and pumpouts of OSSFs
 - TCEQ SEP – covers all counties within the H-GAC Region
 - Harris County District Attorney’s Office SEP - covers all counties within the H-GAC Region
 - Olin Community Grant – covers Brazoria County
 - Wells Fargo Grant – covers all counties within the H-GAC Region
- All programs have environmental benefits, helping affected communities avoid harmful environmental impact from failing OSSFs.
- Texas A&M AgriLife has a program for OSSF pumpouts with no stipulations
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2024 Completed or Pending

County	Watershed	Replacements	Pumpouts	Repairs
Brazoria	• Oyster Creek	2	16	-
	• Chocolate Bayou	1	6	1
	• San Bernard River	2	-	-
Matagorda	• Caney Creek	1	-	-
	• Peyton Creek	1	-	-
Fort Bend	-	-	-	-
Wharton	-	-	-	-
	TOTAL	7	22	1

Prior 5 Years

County	Watershed	Replacements	Pumpouts	Repairs
Brazoria	• Chocolate Bay	4	-	1
	• San Bernard River	-	-	2
	• Clear Creek	1	-	-
	• Jones Creek	1	-	-
	• Oyster Creek	1	-	-
Matagorda	• Caney Creek	-	-	1
	• Peyton Creek	1	-	-
	• Tres Palacios	1	-	-
Fort Bend	-	-	-	-
Wharton	-	-	-	-
TOTAL		13	-	4

Resident Feedback

“Bill:

There are no words to express our gratitude and appreciation for everything that was done to help us. From the beginning, at the meeting, everyone was patient in helping me understand. I got follow up phone calls, and emails keeping us updated throughout the process. The service people who came to our home were prompt, and thorough and explained every detail. This was no small task, and we recognize all of the effort and financial funding that went into this project. Kudos to you, your team! This is something we are beyond grateful for, we are blessed to have crossed paths, we can never repay the financial assistance and kindness.

Please pass along our appreciation and genuine "THANK YOU" to ALL of the people who made this possible!”

Contact Information

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