

Local Government Portal

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ABSTRACT

The Local Government Portal (LGP), is one of five projects selected to showcase the value and capabilities of the E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative. Specifically, the LGP is a unique state/federal collaboration that aims to greatly enhance information and tools for local leaders to improve environmental performance. With input from a scoping team that included a broad coalition of stakeholders, the LGP underwent a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis, with positive results. Additionally, the project will utilize funding to MO and AZ through an EN grant that will be used to develop a state template and a water wizard for small communities compliance assistance. This project is set to become one of the next set of “use cases” to integrate and develop a design within the broader E-Enterprise portal. When complete, the LGP will offer a customer-centric user experience for local leaders seeking a broad array of tools and information that will improve environmental outcomes at the local level.

Why Do We Need a Local Government Portal?

- Mayor Linda Lueckenhoff
- Ewing, Missouri
- Population 456



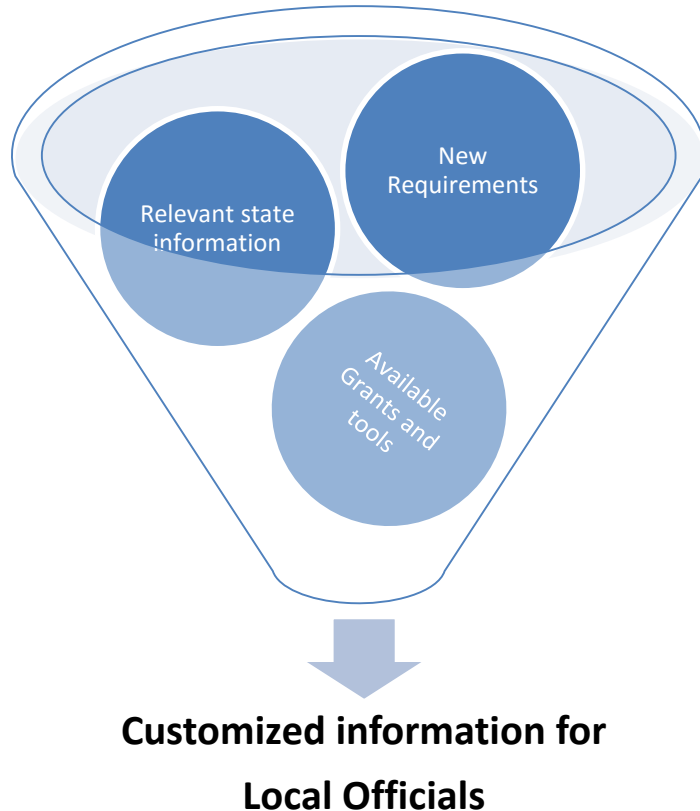
For local officials, finding the right information . . .



. . . is often as hard as finding gems among a sea of rocks.



Customization and user-friendly design



The portal will push information that is timely, relevant and important to the needs of each community.

Scoping Team

Co-Chair: Sheryl Rosner, Senior Policy Advisor, US EPA - Region 1

Co-Chair: Sara Parker Pauley, Director, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Hannah Humphrey, Community Services Coordinator, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Lorisa Smith, Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Andrew Putnam, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Sharon Adams, Environmental Health Planner, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Armando Herald, Local Assistant Unit, Drinking Water Program, Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment

Tom Lamberson , Deputy Director of Administration , Nebraska Division of Environmental Quality

Ian Bingham, Ombudsman and Tribal Liaison, Arizona Division of Environmental Quality

Gerald Wagner, Blackfeet Tribe, National Tribal Caucus

Lisa D. Daniels, Director Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Safe Drinking Water

Shana Harbour, OCFO

Ken Harmon, OECA

Sandra Connor, Office of Policy

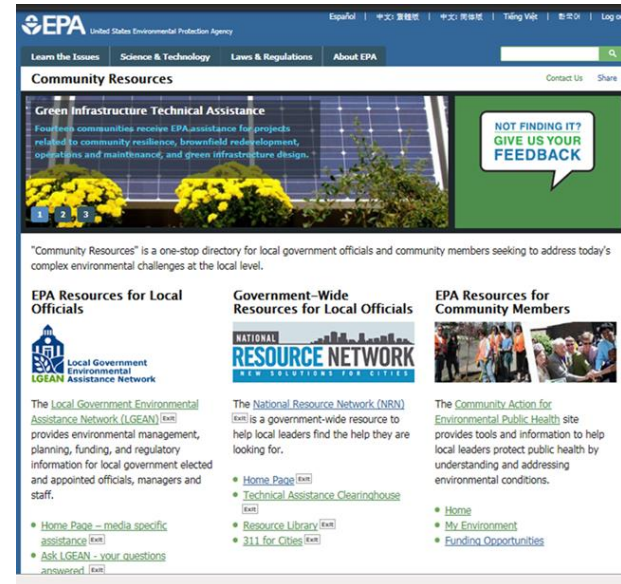
Jaime Piziali

Mark Rupp

Beth Graves

Scoping and user engagement

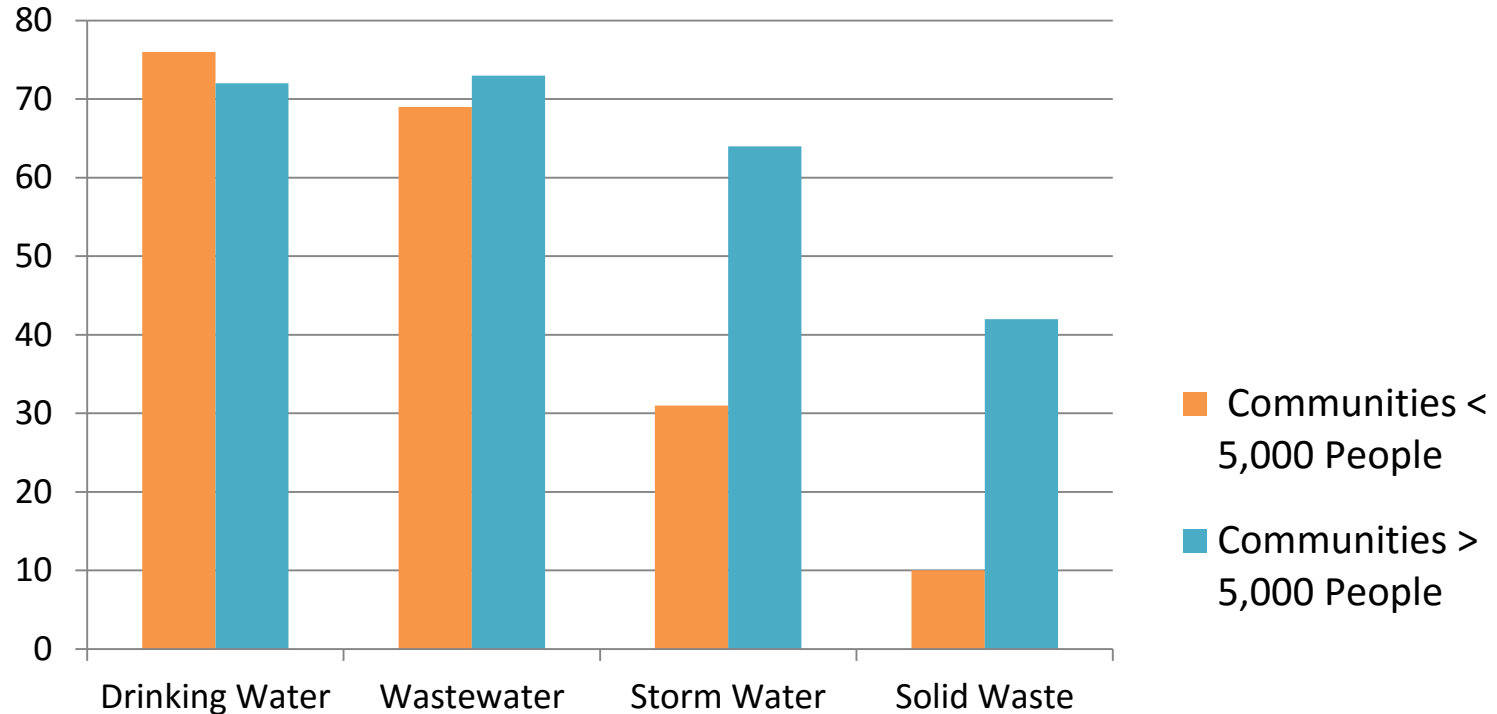
- Identified “As Is” conditions and ideas for “To Be” by:
 - Listening to feedback on EPA’s Community Resources website.
 - Engaging with the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC).
 - Conducting interviews with small groups and individual representing local governments.”
 - Collecting enforcement data from state enforcement staff and Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS).
 - Conducting a state-led survey of 400 local government officials



EPA's Community Resources Home Page
<http://www2.epa.gov/communities>

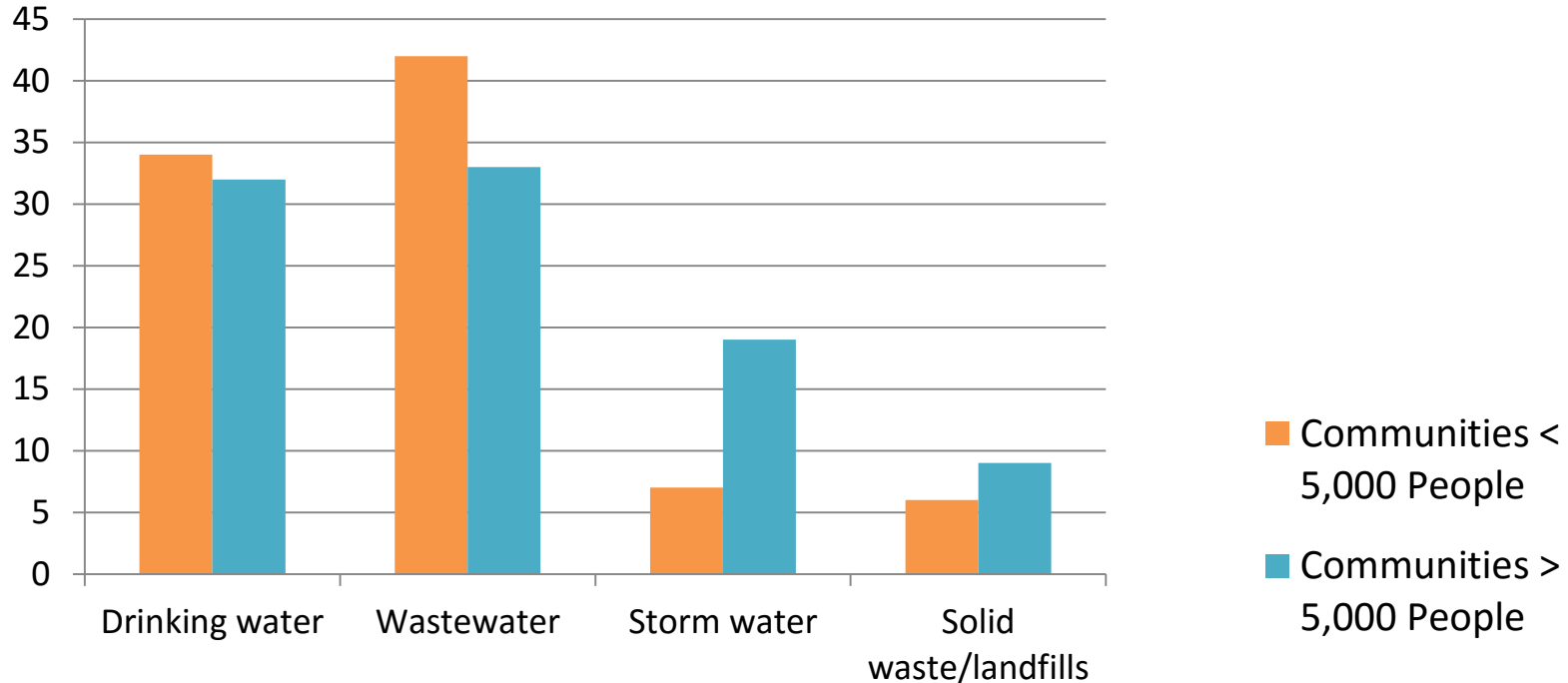
LGP Survey & Scoping Results

Local Government Environmental Responsibility



LGP Survey & Scoping Results

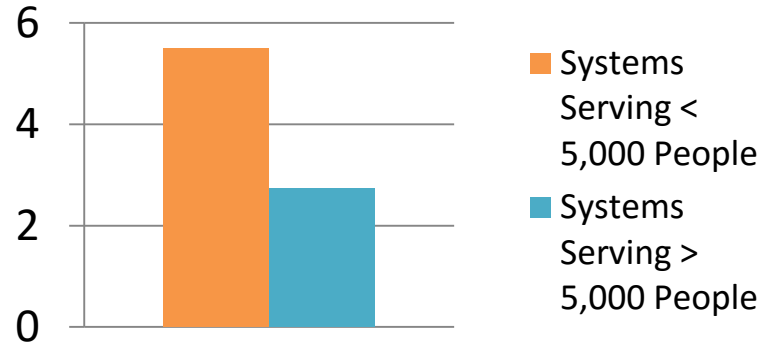
Local Government Respondents Reporting Compliance as Extremely or Moderately Challenging



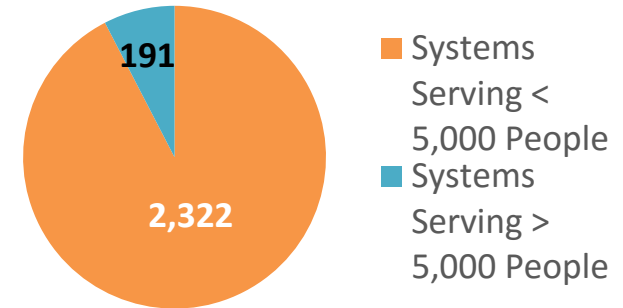
LGP Survey & Scoping Results

Non-Compliance Rates Higher Among Small Communities

% of Systems with Drinking Water Violations in 2014



Number of Systems with Drinking Water Violations in 2014

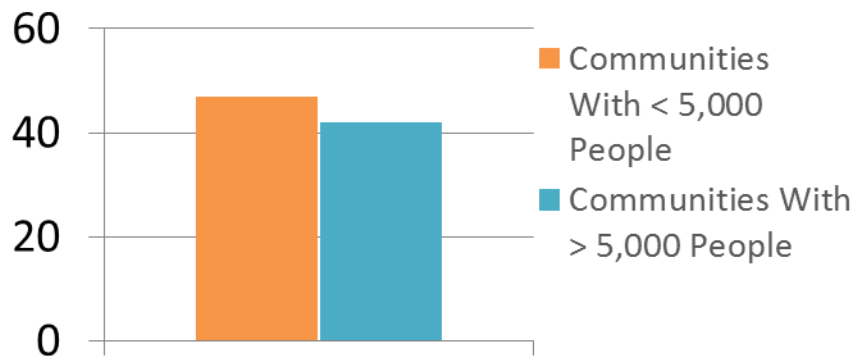


Source: Safe Drinking Water Information System

LGP Survey & Scoping Results

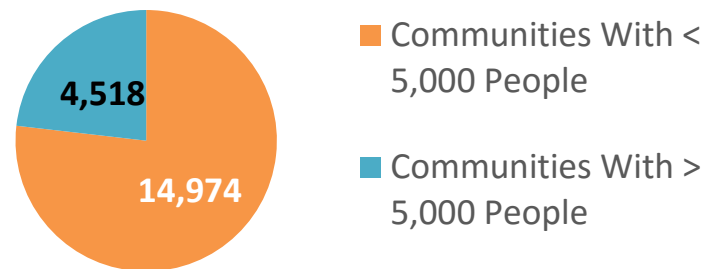
Small Communities are numerous; all communities report difficulty finding compliance information

Percent of Communities Having Difficulty Finding Information



Source: State survey 2015

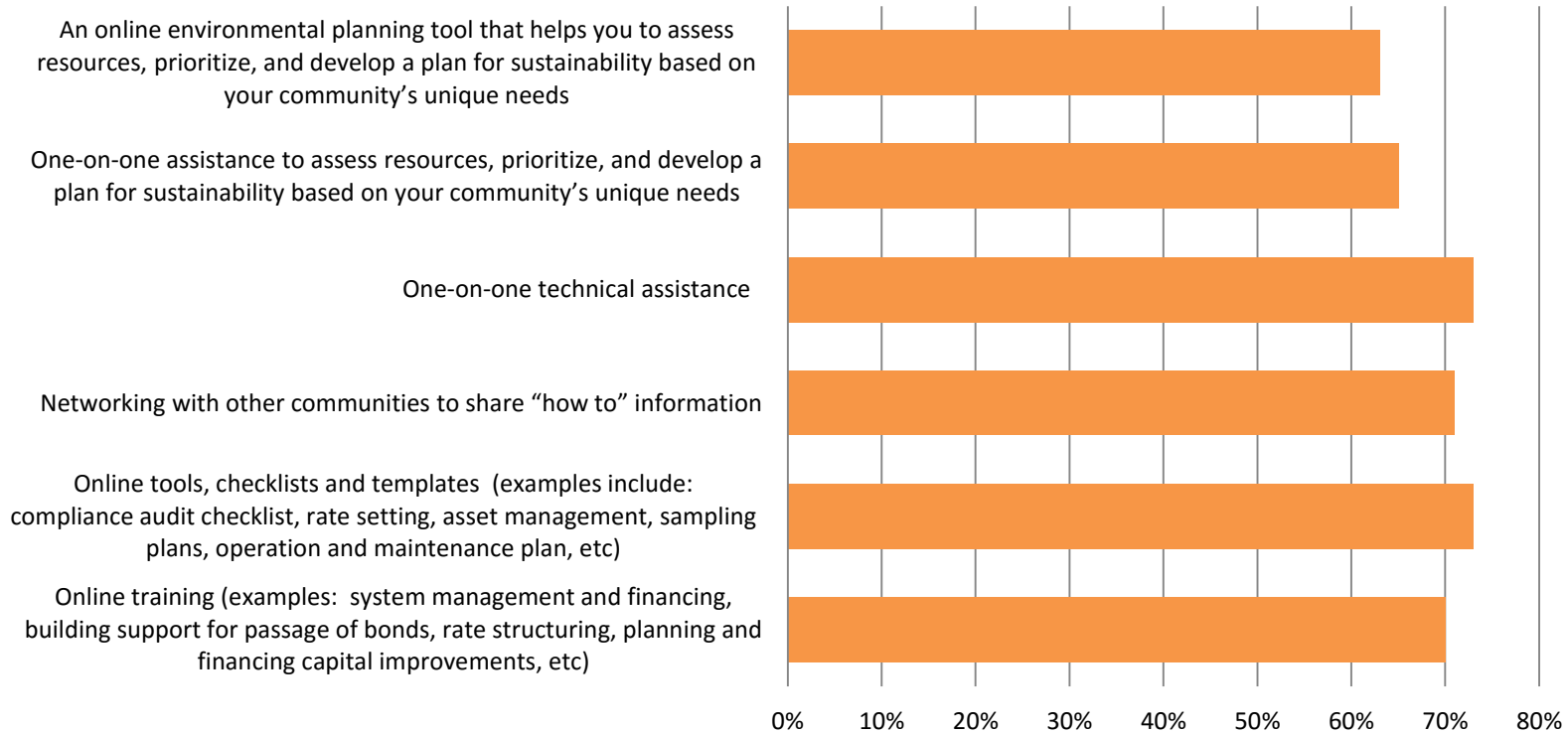
Nationwide Community Size and Distribution, 2007



Source: Census Bureau

LGP Survey & Scoping Results

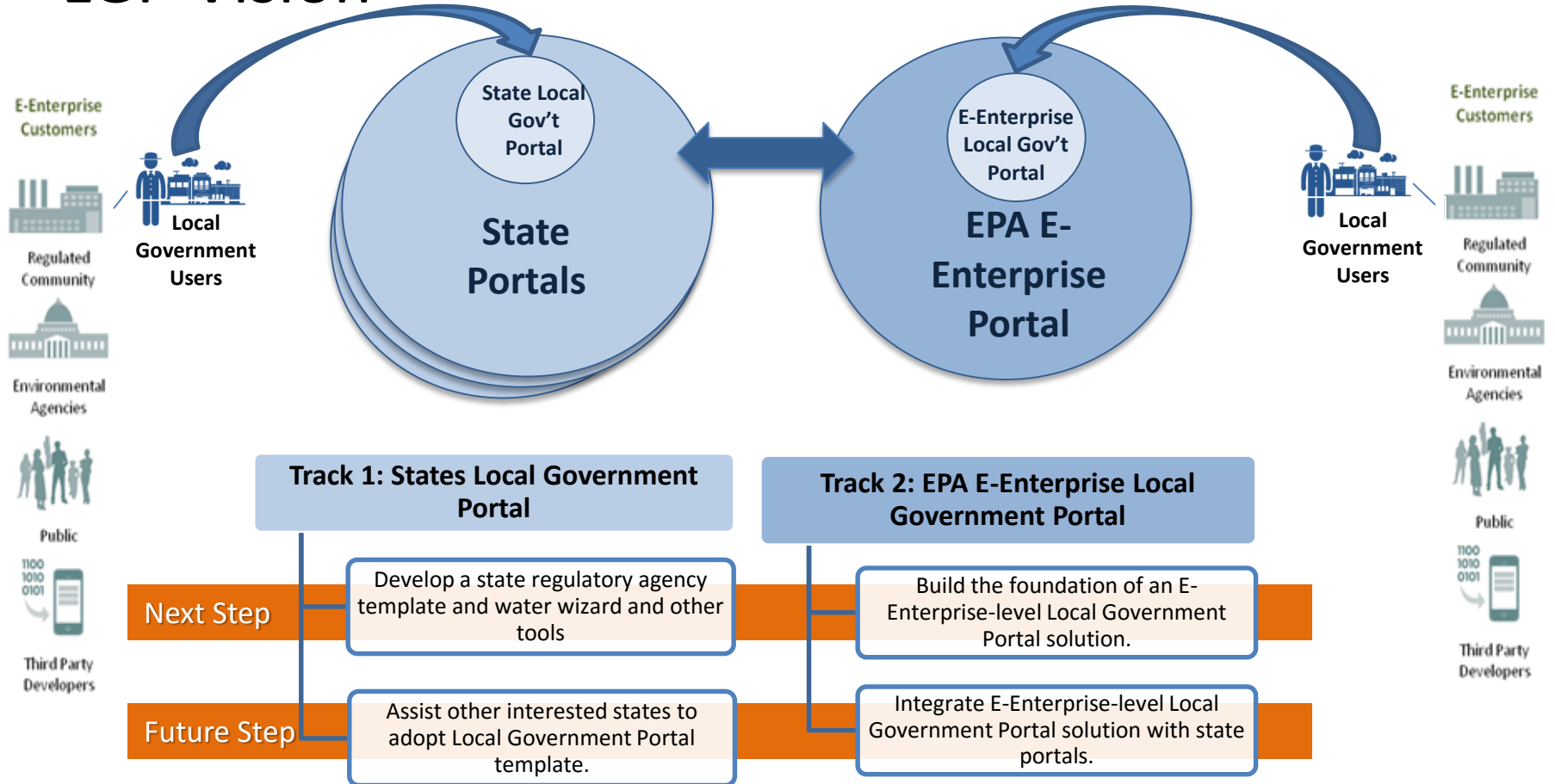
The majority of local government representatives would find the proposed tools and services extremely or moderately useful



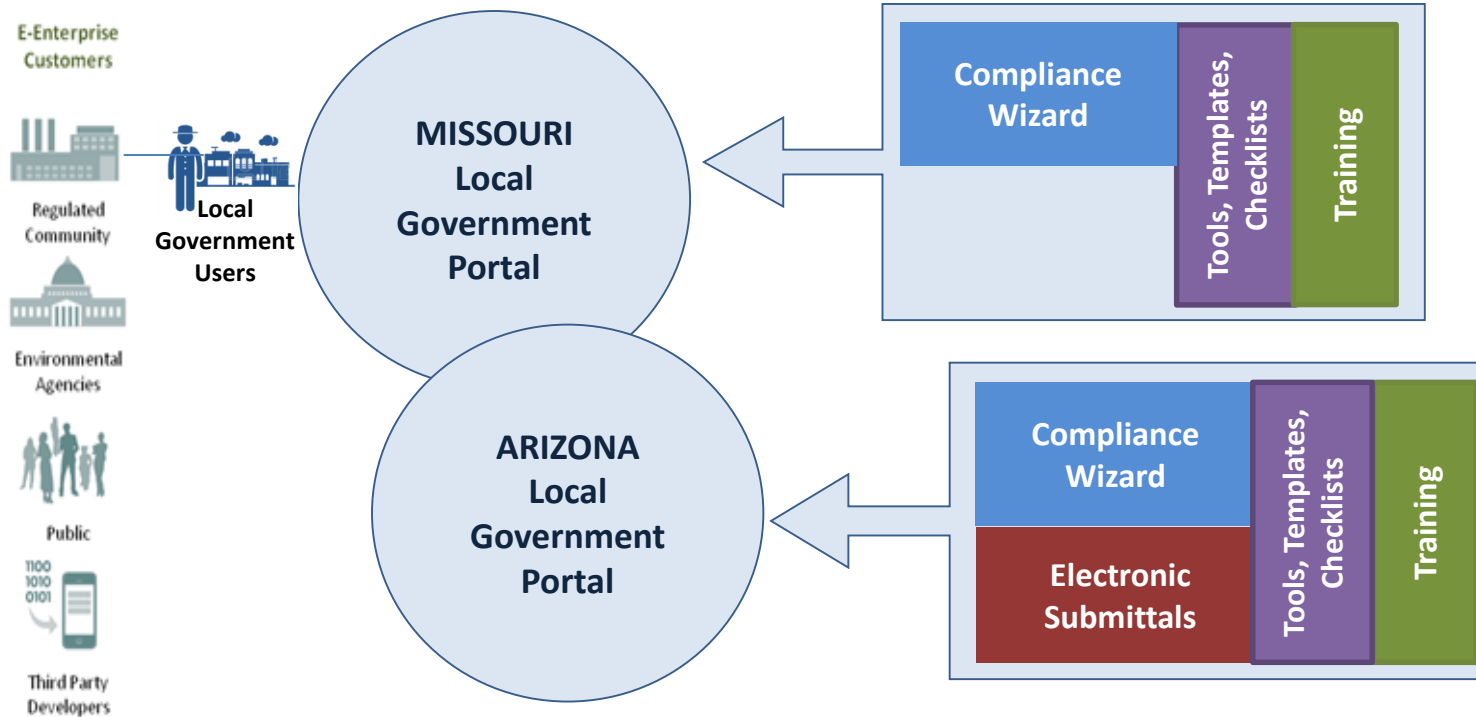
LGP Survey & Scoping: What did we learn?

- Areas of greatest needs are drinking water and wastewater compliance for **small communities**.
- Users have **diverse roles** -- “local officials” may include water system operators, city clerks, county coordinators, sustainability managers, town managers, etc.
- Survey responses received from 11 states may **not be fully representative** of conditions nationwide, including tribes – will need to engage user focus groups.
- Don’t need to start from scratch - need to **leverage existing resources** (e.g., EPA’s new Community Resources website (launched April 2015)).
- To be useful, the LGP must be **customizable** to meet user needs.

LGP Vision



Track 1: State LGPs – Tailored to Each State's Capabilities and Needs



Scalable state regulatory agency portals
designed with web services and resource sets.

Track 1: State Water and Wastewater Compliance Wizard

Is your local government responsible for a drinking water distribution and or treatment system?

When were your system's rates last reviewed and updated to reflect full cost pricing ?

Is your local government responsible for a wastewater treatment system?

Do you have new permit requirements?

Drinking Water System



Recommendations

- Technical
- Managerial
- Financial

Resources

- ...
- ...
- ...

Wastewater System



Recommendations

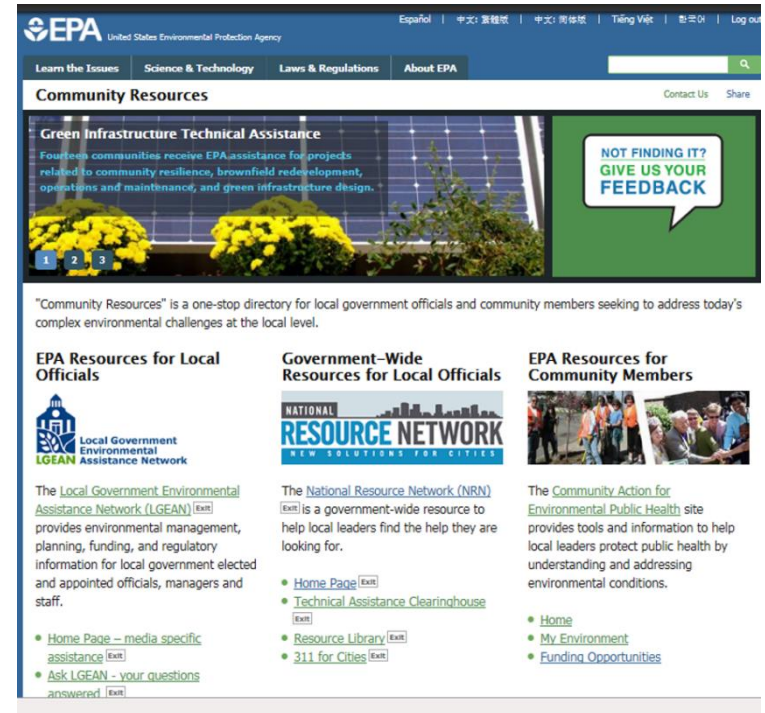
- Technical
- Managerial
- Financial

Resources

- ...
- ...
- ...

Track 2: Develop inventory of requirements and resources to include in E-Enterprise Portal

- Evaluate existing resources and unmet needs (“gap analysis”)
- Focus on user experience
- Early work to prepare for integration



Value Propositions

- Using unique capabilities of states and EPA allows the project to move forward more holistically (state surveys, EPA website)
- Including external stakeholders from outside the two agencies improves results.
- The LGP serves as a promising “use case” for the E-Enterprise portal because there is existing information that can be included now that is useful to local governments (my environment, air now, etc.).
- LGP serves as an easy to understand example for communicating the value of E-Enterprise and its joint governance approach.

Q&A