

# THE CASPER AQUIFER

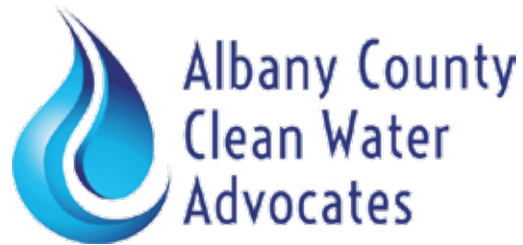
An "aquifer" is an underground formation that stores water. The water gets there by falling as rain or snow and then trickling down through soil and rock layers to become "groundwater." We tap groundwater through wells and springs.

In a normal year, the City of Laramie (including the South of Laramie Water and Sewer District) gets about half its drinking water from the Laramie River and the other half from wells in the Casper Aquifer east of town.

The Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ) is the area where the Casper Aquifer is exposed at the surface, where contaminants present at the surface or subsurface can be carried into the groundwater.

Residents on the APOZ within the City of Laramie are connected to city water and sewer, so contamination from septic systems is not a concern as it may be outside the city.

However, as a resident of the APOZ, there are further steps you can take to protect the drinking water supply for yourself and your neighbors.



## REFERENCES

A digital copy of this brochure, based on the [Casper Aquifer Protection Plan \(CAPP\)](#), is available with live links at: [albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org](http://albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org)

[Appendix G of the CAPP](#) contains the complete Best Management Practices for Single Family Residences within the aquifer protection area.

[Albany County Clean Water Advocates \(ACCWA\)](#) are local residents working to protect our community's drinking water now and for generations to come.

*ACCWA prepared this brochure with funding assistance from the Center for Health, Environment and Justice.*



**Learn more:**

[Albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org](http://Albanycountycleanwateradvocates.org)



# OUR DRINKING WATER

As a resident of the Aquifer Protection Overlay Zone (APOZ), you can be an active participant in keeping our community's drinking water clean.





## WASHING AND MAINTAINING YOUR VEHICLE

---

- If possible, wash and maintain your vehicle at commercial facilities instead of at home.
- When washing your car at home, use a soap without phosphates.
- If you change your oil at home, it can be recycled at the City of Laramie Street Shop (307-721-5277) or the Albany County Road and Bridge Shop (307-742-2534).
- Used antifreeze and automotive batteries may be taken to the Laramie Landfill / Recycling Center to properly recycle / divert without charge. Call 721-5279 for more information.



## FERTILIZERS, PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, LANDSCAPING

---

- Always follow the manufacturer's directions for mixing and applying fertilizers, herbicides, or insecticides on your property. Excess chemicals will find their way into groundwater.
- Choose plantings that require minimal watering and fertilization.
- Make compost in enclosed composting containers or lined pits.

For Laramie Landfill/Recycling Center questions or to make an appointment, call 307-721-5279. Information is available on their website at [cityoflaramie.org/solidwaste](http://cityoflaramie.org/solidwaste) and their app, Laramie Waste & Recycling.



## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES

---

- Never dump products labeled as hazardous down the drain, on the ground, or in the street. They may be disposed of without charge at the Laramie landfill.
- Dechlorinate hot tub water before dumping on the ground or into the storm sewer.
- Use a ground cloth under any outdoor work involving oil-based paints, stains, solvents, rust removers, masonry cleaners, etc.
- Store hazardous materials under cover and off the ground to prevent damage to containers that may cause them to leak and contaminate soil and water – and most importantly, keep these materials away from children and pets!
- Don't mix one kind of waste with another! It makes them more difficult to dispose of or recycle.