CHECK UP PROGRAM FOR SMALL SYSTEMS (CUPSS)

The Check Up Program for Small Systems (CUPSS) is an asset management tool developed and maintained by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to encourage small drinking water and wastewater sustainability in the US. This desktop software programme supports water utility operators in documenting their physical assets, tracking maintenance and replacement, planning annual budgets, and providing an overall plan for the management of the water system. The development of CUPSS was a response by the EPA to a need from communities and trainers for an easy-to-use asset management support programme. CUPSS can be used according to the discretion of the user—from tracking all operation and maintenance activities to long-term maintenance such as asset replacements. CUPSS was pilot tested on 20 systems across eight states with asset management programmes implemented at different stages. The outputs of CUPSS can be used to justify water charges and help a utility to identify preventive measures to fully meet customers' expectations at an appropriate cost. This tool is available free of charge.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

Target: Operators of small-scale water and wastewater systems.

Objective: To help small drinking water or wastewater systems manage their physical assets, track maintenance and replacement, plan annual budgets, and provide an overall plan for the management of the water system.
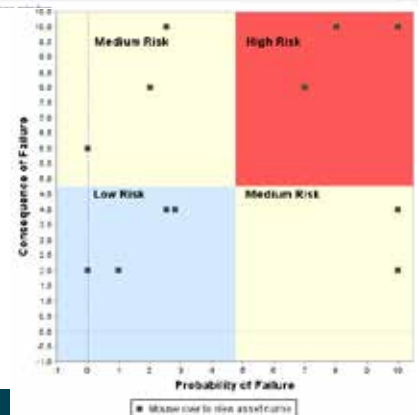
Areas: Inventory, O&M, finances, check-up.

Indicators: 11 indicators across all areas: inventory (3 with 8 sub-indicators); O&M (4 with 180 sub-indicators); finances (2 with 6 sub-indicators); check-up (2 with 6 sub-indicators).

Methodology: Primary data is collected by the user and inputted into the computer program, which can be downloaded from the EPA's website.

Outputs: Record of assets; a schedule of required tasks; a tailored asset management plan focussing on response time, planning, and coordination; as well as an asset risk matrix, which projects the probability of failure and the consequences of failure.

Tool format and language: Desktop software with supporting documentation; English.

Resource Link: www.epa.gov/cupss

IMPACT AND FINDINGS

The EPA offers training webinars and a wide variety of digital resources to assist water and wastewater specialists in the management and operation of their systems. The user's guide introduces asset management through a step-by-step approach, using CUPSS as the foundation; provides exercises to build understanding of concepts; and provides detailed information on how to use the CUPSS software tool publicised on their website. CUPSS has over 3,000 registered users from each of the 50 US states and over 40 international users.

Strengths	Limitations
Free software and support	Designed for application in the United States for service providers that utilise sophisticated technologies
Easy-to-use step-by-step programme	
Simple interface	Not appropriate for service providers using less advanced technologies (handpumps, gravity fed systems, etc.)
Comprehensive support materials easily available	No tablet or internet-based applications of CUPSS currently exist, use limited to desktop.
	Requires a computer with 1 GHz processor, 512 MB RAM, 256 MB memory, and Windows 95 or later