

GreenvilleOnline.com

Upstate residents to get tips on reducing water pollution

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| Staff Writer

Renewable Water Resources has launched a program aimed at preventing water pollution in the Upstate.

Called Be Freshwater Friendly, the program hopes to educate residents about how things they do — like fertilizing lawns and failing to pick up after their dogs — affect the region's waterways.

“Controlling more of what we allow to enter our wastewater system and storm-water run-off will help us prevent problems downstream,” said Ray T. Orvin, Jr., ReWa executive director. “The alternative to prevention could be costly technology upgrades to meet increasingly stringent requirements.”

Fertilizer, pet waste, detergent and other products contain nitrogen and phosphorous. But too much of those chemicals can cause algae blooms that degrade lakes and ponds while clogging and corroding pipes in drinking water sources, according to ReWa, which provides wastewater services for more than 400,000 customers in Greenville County and parts of Anderson, Pickens, Spartanburg and Laurens counties.

This “non-point source pollution” is widespread and hard to correct, so ReWa is asking citizens to help.

“In addition to managing and treating contaminants,” said Stacey Flax, ReWa's Be Freshwater Friendly Campaign manager, “the best way to protect the water environments of the Upstate is to prevent pollutants, like phosphorus, from initially getting into our waterways.”

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