

Environmental Health

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2020-2021

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Environmental Health Mission Statement

To safeguard life, promote human health, and protect the environment through the practice of modern environmental health science, the use of technology, rules, public education, and above all, dedication to the public trust.

The Craven County Health Department - Division of Environmental Health seeks to build upon the history of public health and to assist in maintaining a healthy environment in which it is pleasant to live and work.

This Division strives to respond to the dynamics and growth of our county and the changing priorities of Public Health. This is accomplished through the development and implementation of programs designed to assist in the promotion of healthy living and the mitigation of adverse environmental factors.

The Division protects public health and safety through preventive measures designed to identify and control the spread of disease. This is accomplished primarily by the promotion of environmental health through education of the general public and through the enforcement of state and local public health regulations.



Management Support

This section's goal is to ensure that citizen's requests, data and other information are distributed in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel or program.

This section is responsible for, but not limited to:

- Researching and providing documents such as older septic permits upon request by citizens.
- Finances associated with Environmental Health's various programs.
- Accounts receivable and accounts payable
- Purchasing
- Accounting support for the Animal Services voucher program
- Receive samples for water analysis
- Process applications and permits for septic tanks, food, lodging and institutional plan reviews
- Generate reports
- Ensure documents are completed, processed and maintained
- Assist with various needs of staff and with special projects
- Log complaints or inquiries from citizens, and
- Various other requests for service

FINANCE

Environmental Health Management Support receives funds from several sources.

Fees for Services:

- Permits & Approvals for Septic Tank Systems
- Private Drinking Water Well Permits
- Water Sample Analyses
- Plan Review for Food Service Establishments
- Temporary & Limited Food Establishment Permits
- Plan Review and Annual permits for Swimming Pools
- Annual Tattoo Artist Permits
- Manager Food Safety Training

LOCAL TAX SUPPORT: **$875,180.89**

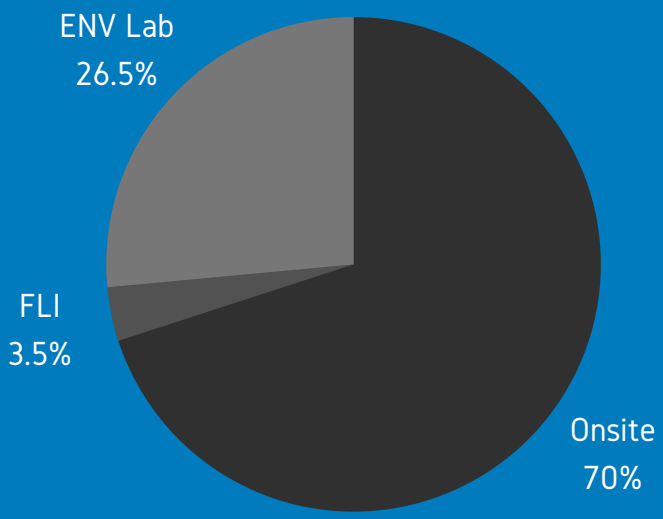
Craven County support is provided to the Environmental Health Division, however not as revenue, and it's handled through the Health Department's Administrative Program.

STATE AID TO COUNTY: **$30,260**

- Annual permit fees collected by the State for FLI establishments are shared with the counties based on the percentage of required sanitation inspection completed. We received **$18.034**
- A portion of the State Health Aid to County was allocated for Environmental Health in the amount of **$12,226.**

2019-2020REVENUES FROM SERVICES: **$142,424.25**

1. Onsite: **$99,688.25**
2. FLI: **$5,025.00**
   - Plan Review
   - TFE
   - ServSafe Courses
3. ENV Lab: **$37,711.00**





Food, Lodging, and Institutions

This program's goal is to ensure excellent food safety and sanitation in regulated establishments.

The FLI program conducts unannounced inspections in a variety of facilities including:

- Restaurants
- Push Carts and Mobile Food Trucks
- School Cafeterias
- Nursing Homes
- Day Care Centers
- Hotels
- Bed & Breakfast Inns/Homes

All inspection reports for these facilities can be found on the Craven County website at: www.cravencountync.gov or by typing "craven establishments" without the quotes in your internet search engine.

FLI staff work to ensure compliance with all sanitation laws through routine inspection, education, construction plan review and complaint investigations.



In the fiscal year 2020-21:

1480 Total Inspections conducted.
693 Sanitation Inspections
541 Compliance Inspections.
71 Permit Inspections



3 INSPECTION TYPES:

Sanitation

- 1-4 inspections per year based on risk hazard analysis of food preparation.
- Unannounced
- Grade card is posted. 90-100=A; 80-89.5=B; 70-79.5=C. Establishments receiving a score below 70 will be closed.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments.

Compliance

- Verify violations are corrected, generally within 10 days.
- Investigate complaints.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments

Permit or Opening

- Permits - new establishments or new owners of existing establishments. Plan review is required.
- Opening - facilities permitted by other agencies and inspected by our FLI program.
- Majority conducted at food service establishments.





ONSITE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

The Onsite program is responsible for protecting the public's health by ensuring safe subsurface treatment and disposal of wastewater and the attainment of clean, potable water from private drinking water wells in our county.

There are significant portions of Craven County that are served by septic tank systems. This program is responsible for the permitting and inspecting of all onsite septic systems installed in the county. This includes new systems, repairs and flow increases for septic systems for residences, places of business and places of public assembly.

To determine the suitability of land parcels to accommodate new septic systems, detailed soil and site evaluations are performed by Onsite staff. Based on these evaluations, either a **permit** or a **denial** is issued.

Documents Issued

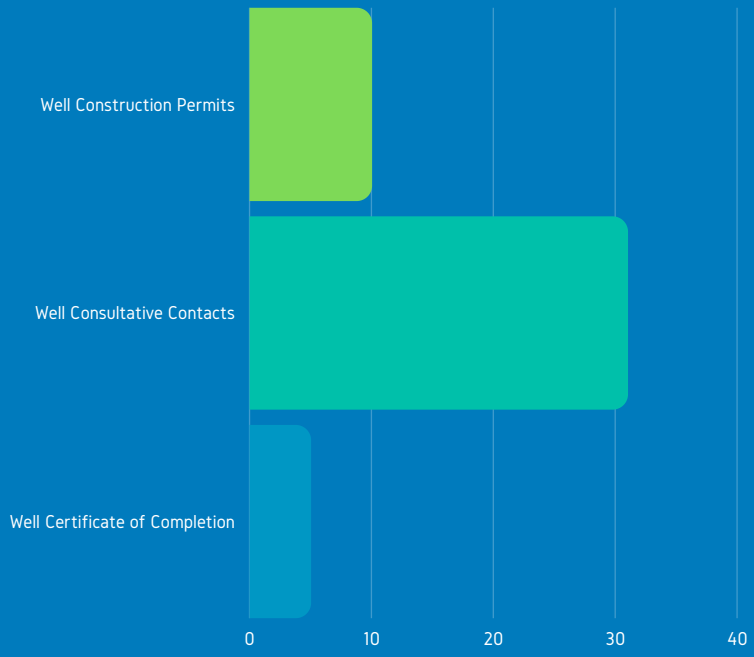
- **Improvement Permit (IP):** The first permit issued for a parcel of land if it is determined usable for a subsurface septic system. It is needed prior to Planning Board approval of subdivisions or mobile home parks.
- **Construction Authorization (CA):** Required before any construction on a new or malfunctioning septic system or structure begins.
- **Operation Permit (OP):** Issued after the septic system has been properly installed and inspected. It is needed prior to release of final electrical power and occupancy of a structure.
- **Approval:** Issued when additional structures are added or replaced on parcels with existing septic tank systems
- **Denial:** Issued when the parcel cannot support a septic tank system for the type of structure applied for.

ONSITE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

- Onsite staff review & inspect large and/or complicated septic tank systems (those with pumps, pre-treatment technology, electronic components, etc.) to ensure they are being properly maintained and operated. This is known as the System Review Program (SRP) within the Onsite program.
- Installation inspections are performed by EHS's during the constrution of each system installed in the county to ensure compliance with State rules and regulations.
- A site visit and evaluation for an **Approval for an existing** septic system is performed when any building addition, structure replacement, swimming pool, or detached structure is proposed.
- Onsite staff evaluates failing septic systems and issue permits for repairing them.
- Onsite staff investigates various complaints and respond to requests for services, such as water sampling, consultation, permit queries, educational presentation, etc.

DRINKING WATER WELL PROGRAM

The Onsite Water Protection Program is responsible for overseeing the permitting, construction, repair, sampling and abandonment of private drinking water wells (not irrigation wells) via our Private Drinking Water Well program. Sites are visited by EHS's to confirm the suitability of each proposed location for a well and to identify potential sources of contamination. Water sampling is performed to test for bacteriological, inorganic and nitrate/nitrite indicators of water contamination. Water samples from newly-installed wells are tested at the State Laboratory of Public Health in Raleigh, NC. Samples from existing wells may be tested at our Environmental Health Lab, depending on the parameters desired.



MIGRANT HOUSING

The primary goal for this program is to ensure that seasonal migrant labor camps located in Craven County provide safe drinking water, sanitary facilities and adequate wastewater disposal to their workers. Farmers request inspections before they obtain workers. Inspections are made, corrections put in place, and post-inspection reports are provided to the appropriate regulatory agencies.

In the fiscal year 2019-20: **8**

In the fiscal year 2020-2021

Total Applications Received	846
Improvement Permits Issued	302
Construction Authorizations Issued	320
Operation Permits Issued	198
Complaint Investigation	28
Authorizations for Existing Systems	283
Requests for Services	362
Consultative Contacts	2339

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LAB

The goal of the Environmental Health Laboratory is to protect the public from disease-causing organisms by providing bacterilogical testing of public water systems, private wells, new construction plumbing, ground water supplies and recreational surface waters.

The Environmental Lab is certified by the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Laboratory Certification. Bacteria, viruses, parasites and other microorganisms are sometimes found in waters and can cause a variety of illnesses.

The environmental lab provides testing services to comply with regulatory programs and requirements such as:

- NC Public Water Supply
- NC Good Agricultural Practices
- Environmental Protection Agency
- US Veteran Affairs (VA Home Loans)
- City/County Building Inspections
- Federal govermental contracts

Bacteriological Testing includes:

- Total coliform and E. coli presence/absence
- E. Coli MPN/100 ml
- Enterococcus MPN/100ml
- Heteroptrophic Plate Count MPN/ml



IN THE FISCAL YEAR 2020-21

Public System Compliance Samples:	**998**
Total Coliform & E. Coli Drinking Water	**1,352**
Heterotrophic Plate Count Samples	**236**
Well Water Analyses	**26**
New Potable Water Line Construction	**162**
Special Water Samples	**166**
Quantitative E. Coli for Recreational Water	**0**

The ENV Lab tests special water samples for many other municipal water systems with surrounding counties such as Craven, Jones, Pamlico, First Craven Sanitary District, and City of Havelock

VECTOR SURVEILLANCE



The vector surveillance program consists of individuals in the department who collect and count mosquitoes between April and October. Mosquito traps are set up around the county to collect specimens for identification by genus and species. We continue to collaborate with East Carolina University to identify and count mosquitos collected in Craven County. A database of how many of each type of mosquito collected is created. This information is uploaded to the NCDHHS mosquito surveillance database.

Our main objective is to ensure our department is prepared in case of a public health emergency.

COVID-19

Environmental Health has continued to contribute in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Information on special operational procedures and disinfection guidelines was provided to facilities regulated by our department. At the direction of the NCDHHS, Environmental Health Specialists responded to complaints pertaining to Executive Orders.

Environmental Health staff provided support for the COVID 19 Vaccination Clinic and drive-up COVID testing. While doing this, staff continued to perform 100% of their regular duties.

In the spring of 2020, all food safety courses offered by the Health Department were cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. In January 2021, staff began the process of adapting the ServSafe Manager's Food Safety course to be taught online to restaurant managers. This change will allow staff to offer the training to more restaurant operators than ever before.

