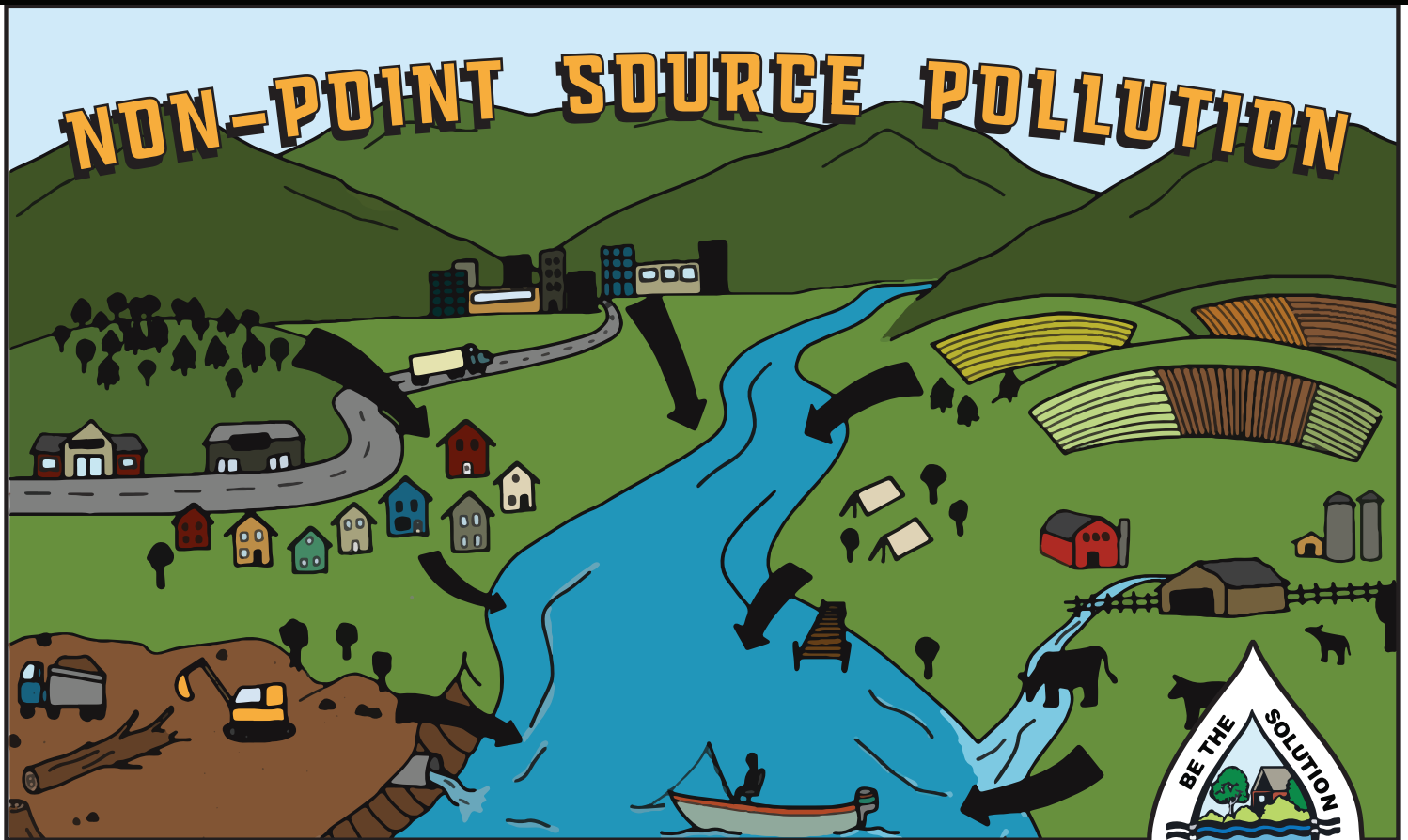


STORMWATER

Tip of the Week

Week 5: February 1, 2022



Non-point source pollutions (NPS pollution) is caused by rainfall or snowmelt moving over and through the ground. As the runoff moves, it picks up and carries away natural and human-made pollutants, finally depositing them into lakes, rivers, wetlands, coastal waters and ground waters. For Nitro, NPS pollution directly affects the Kanawha River and Lake Ridenour. The illustration above shows different activities that generate NPS such as: farming and grazing activities, timber harvesting, urban environments, construction and development, and even recreational boating. Items such as manure, pesticides, fertilizers, dirt, oil, and gas produced by these activities are examples of NPS pollutants and often end up contaminating stormwater runoff. Even households contribute to NPS pollution through improper chemical and pesticide use, landscaping, and other

WHAT CAN I DO AT HOME?

- Keep litter, pet wastes, leaves and debris out of street gutters and storm drains—these outlets drain directly to lake, streams, rivers and wetlands.
- Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.
- Dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints and other household hazardous waste properly—not in storm sewers or drains.
- Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.
- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes. If you're washing your car at home, was it in the grass instead of on pavement.
- Be cautious when doing any construction or landscaping project where dirt will be uncovered. Ask your local government about and permits or guidelines you may need to complete.
- Purchase household detergents and cleaners that are low in phosphorous to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our lakes, streams and coastal waters.