

Community Engagement Core

Cape Cod private wells testing program

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CEC – Working with Community Partners to Address Community Concerns

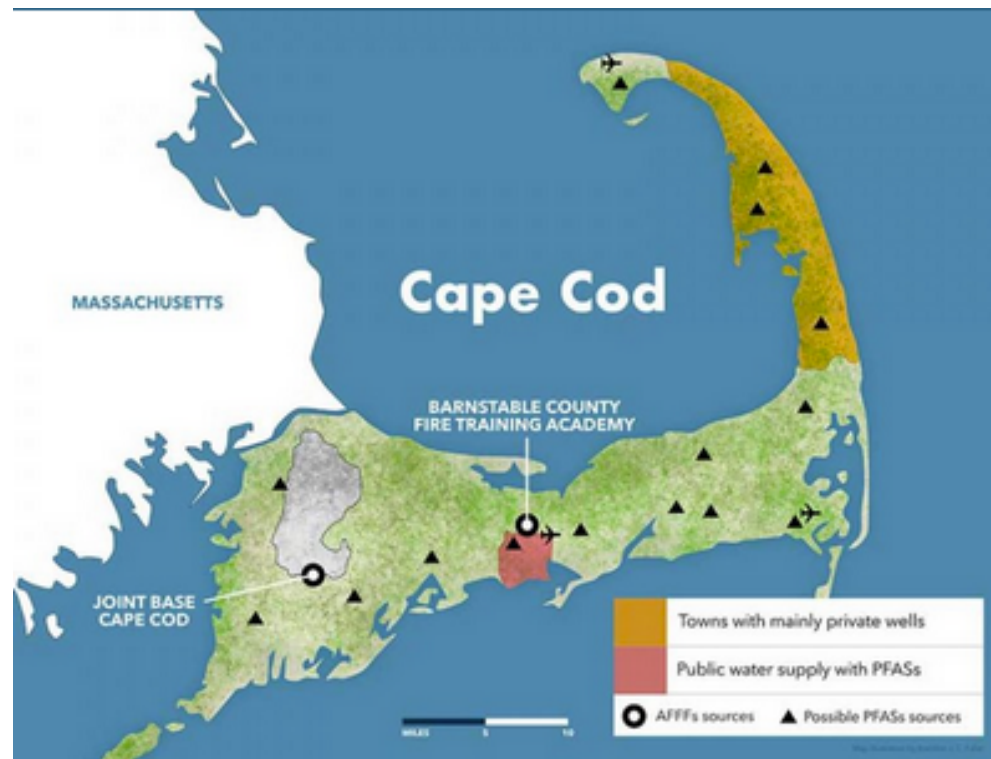
Community Partners:

- Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition
- Sierra Club Cape Cod Group
- STEEP Cape Cod Advisory Committee



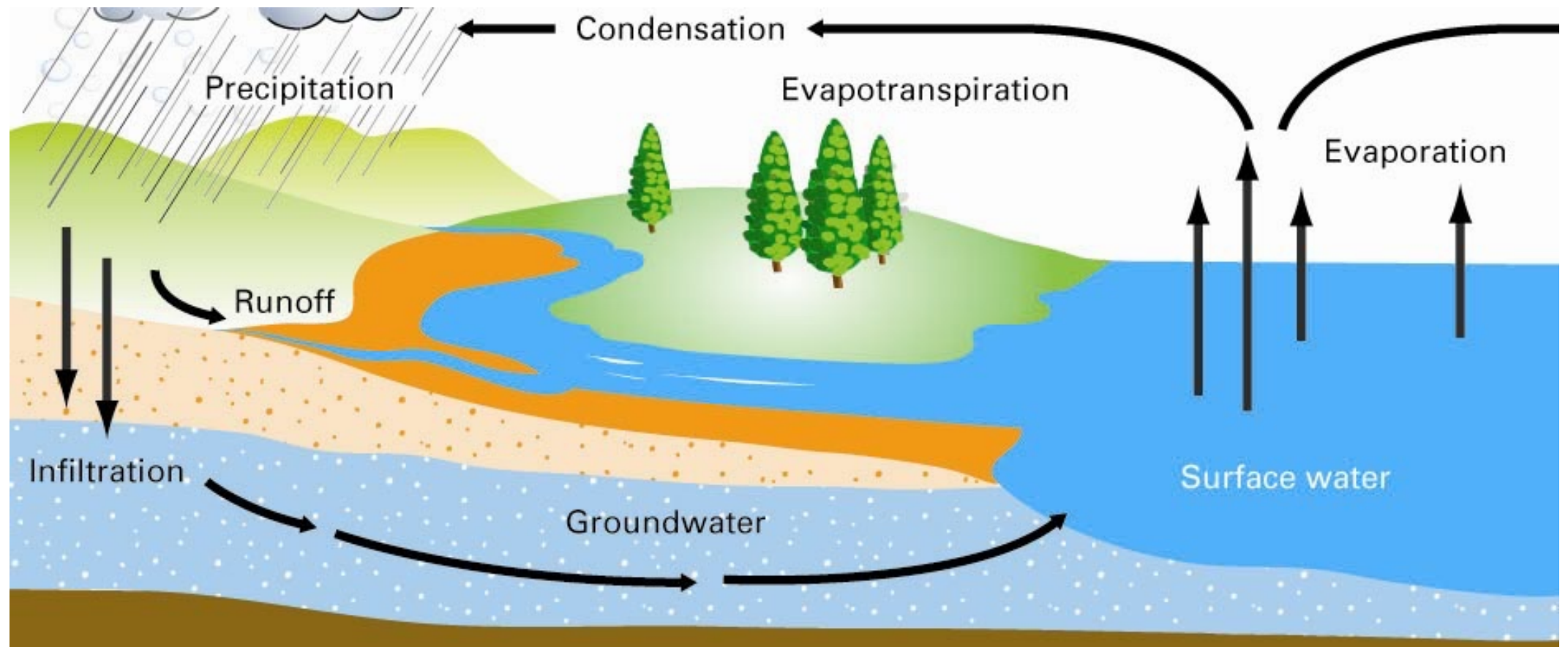
CEC Activities Focused on Cape Cod

[PFAS testing and report-back program](#) for private well owners, focused on areas near likely sources.

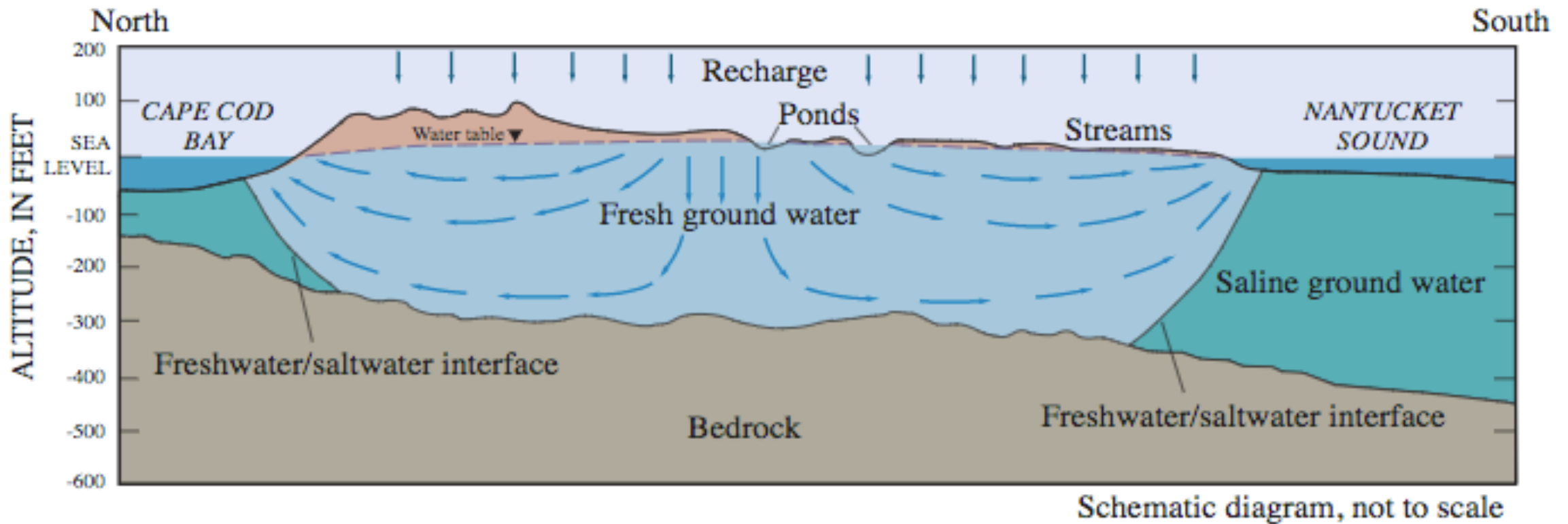


Learn more: <https://web.uri.edu/stEEP/wellwater/>

Groundwater is sole source of drinking water on Cape Cod



Groundwater flow patterns on Cape Cod



Source: USGS, Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4143, 2002

PFASs in Cape drinking water

Upper Cape base water samples show contamination

Military officials say compounds found in firefighting foam have been under investigation for years.

JOINT BASE CAPE COD — Joint Base Cape Cod is included on a national list of military installations where contamination with possible links to cancer and other diseases has been detected in drinking water and groundwater in and around their sites.

Cape Cod Times, 5/22/18



Hyannis Water System

Hyannis residents warned about water quality

HYANNIS — Barnstable officials are recommending that pregnant women, nursing mothers and infants in Hyannis not drink or cook with well water until further notice after a federal agency changed thresholds for two contaminants in the drinking water.

Cape Cod Times, 5/24/16

Mashpee well taken offline

By Chris Lindahl

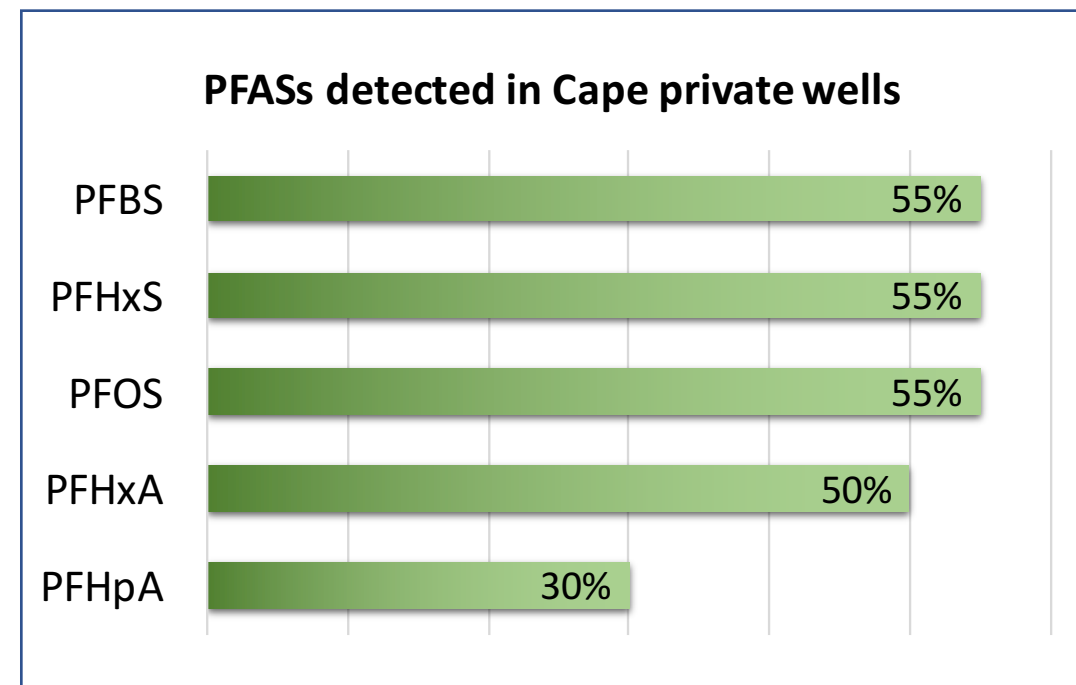


MASHPEE — One of seven wells used for the town's public drinking water supply will remain shut down indefinitely after it recently tested positive for potentially cancer-causing chemicals, likely caused by past activity at Joint Base Cape Cod.

Cape Cod Times, 3/17/17

What about Cape private wells?

- 2011 Silent Spring Institute study
- 4 PFASs detected in at least half of wells tested
- Both older and replacement PFASs
- Septic systems likely main source
- What about other sources?



Data from: Schaider et al. 2016. *Science of the Total Environment*.

STEEP Private wells testing study

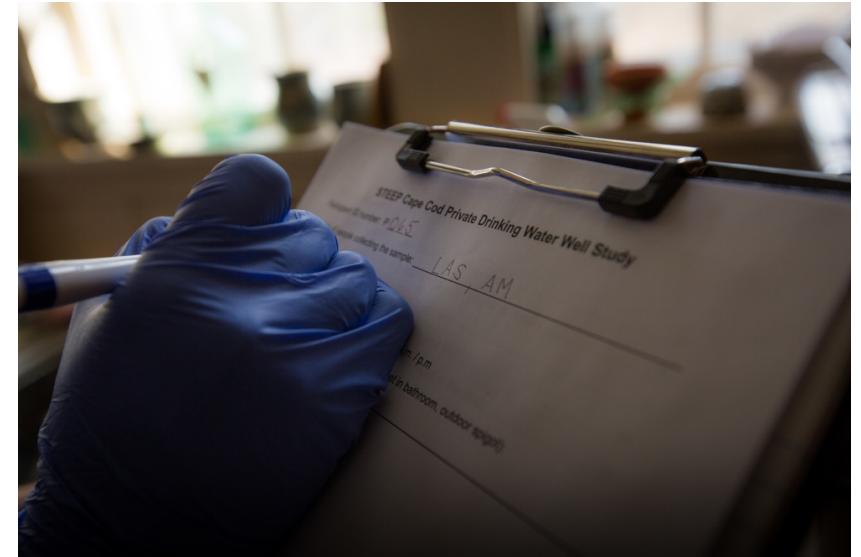
- Test for PFASs in Cape Cod private wells
- Improve our understanding of PFAS exposures
- Identify sources of PFAS contamination to groundwater
- Support testing and treatment to reduce exposure



Study Details

- Test 50 wells annually for PFASs and some common pollutants
- Analysis by Dr. Elsie Sunderland's lab at Harvard University
- Volunteers will learn their own results
- Individual results will be kept confidential
- Overall findings will be shared in public meetings

Learn more: <https://web.uri.edu/stEEP/wellwater/>



We look forward to continuing our work together!



THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND



SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH
Department of Environmental Health



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More information about STEEP is available at: <https://web.uri.edu/steep/>

