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Environmental and Climate Justice
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Innovative, Climate-resilient, and Cost-effective Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems and Management in Rural Unincorporated Communities in the Alabama Black Belt

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Target unincorporated communities: Rural Alabama **Black Belt**

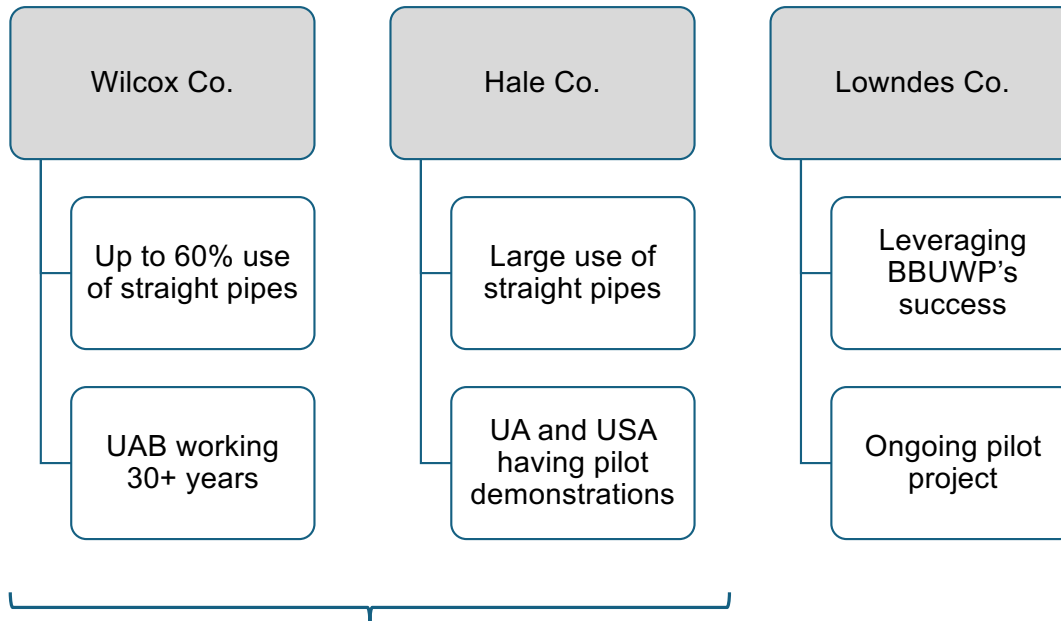
- High **poverty** and low population density
- Clay soils** leading to failing OWTS
- Lack of functional **onsite** wastewater **infrastructure**
- Acute environmental and public **health** risks
- Limited local government capacity and lack of **management entities**
- Lack of **human resources** (e.g., technicians, operators, installers)
- Lack of **economic** development and struggles to attract new businesses



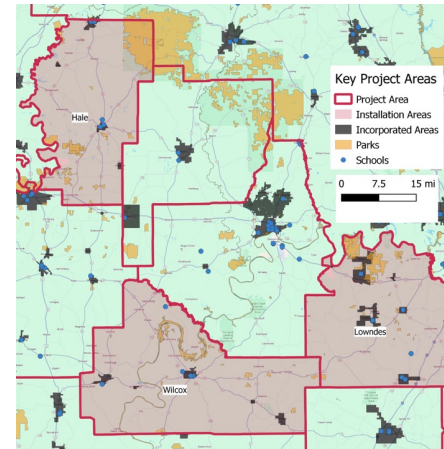
Straight Pipes and Raw Sewage Discharge



The **scope** of the Project Area



Previously overlooked



Project Area Map



Alabama Black Belt Counties



Black Belt's project **activities**

- Address the greatest **needs** in the Black Belt.
- Provide a **holistic** approach to addressing wastewater issues.





Robust community engagement

- Ongoing partnerships and pilot demonstrations through **CARWW** *
- Robust **community relationships** through BBUWP, UAB AmeriCorps VISTA, and CARWW.
- BBUWP**'s program in Lowndes county (e.g., pilot project, enrollment, application).



Community meeting organized by CARWW

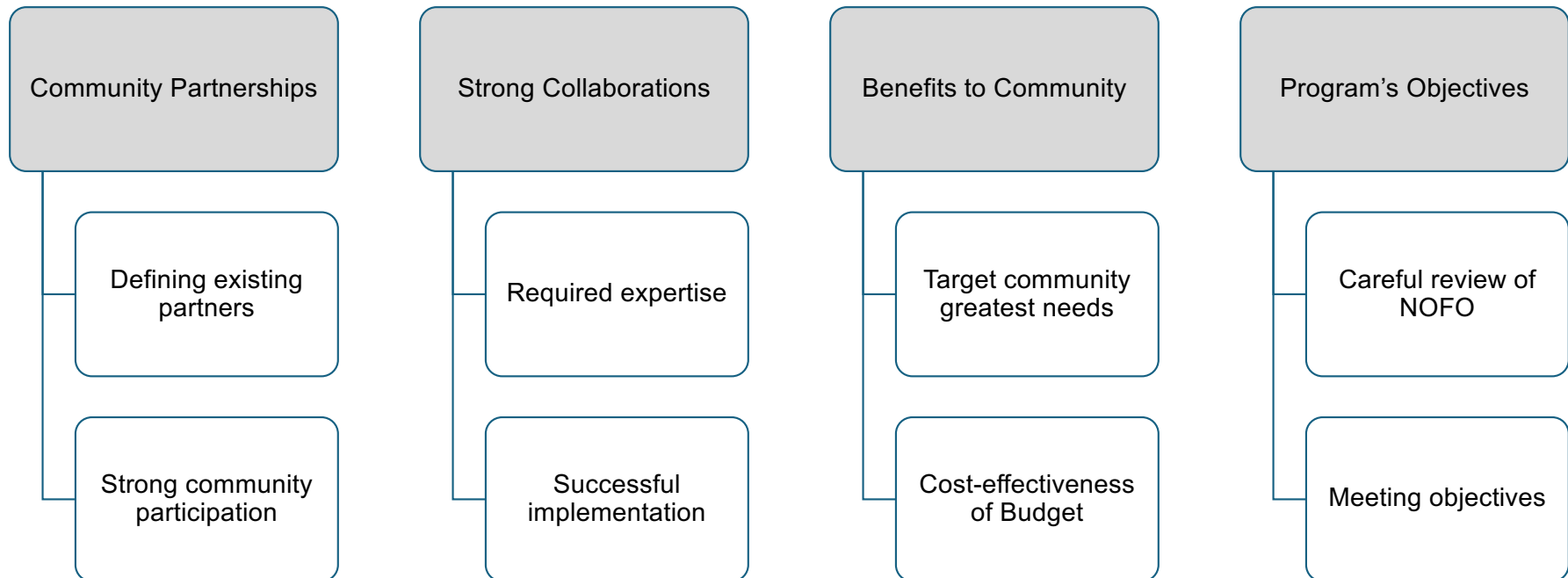


Decentralized system installed in Newbern, AL

* CARWW: Consortium for Alabama Rural Water and Wastewater Management;
ruralwastewater.southalabama.edu



Insights for strengthening the proposal application





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Thank you!

For more information

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Photo credit: Project team