



NEWS RELEASE

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Midland County, Michigan earns national achievement award for its Environmental Health, Mobile Well & Septic Data Collection Project

WASHINGTON – The County of Midland, Michigan’s Environmental Health Mobile Well & Septic Data Collection Project has been recognized with an Achievement Award from the National Association of Counties (NACo). The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

NACo recognized the Environmental Health Mobile Well & Septic Data Collection Project in the category of Health. This project was a collaborative effort between Bay, Gratiot, Midland, and Saginaw counties. The idea for the project was a result of discussion from a local GIS users meeting. Each of the respective counties has a one person GIS department that has worked together in the past. GIS and Environmental Health professionals began conceptual development of what the application needs were and how GIS would be the core technology to accomplish the tasks. Since none of the counties support large IT departments within-house programming we created a public-private partnership with the GIS consulting firm Amalgam LLC.

Technology is at the forefront of initiating more efficient workflows, improving data quality and making more information available to the public using services that enhance accessibility. These resources and more were integrated into an application to collect, analyze and assist in well and septic system permitting. The EH mobile data application uses GIS as the base technology to create, store and retrieve information for permitting. Utilizing our current web map service we were able to serve up this information on a tablet in the field. The data is stored in a cloud environment and can be downloaded into our respective county GIS databases. The tablets are GPS enabled using Verizon cellular services where available and Garmin GLO GPS unit that Bluetooth’s to the tablet.

“We are extremely pleased with the results of this creative public-private partnership. With an ever increasing pressure on budgets, it is refreshing to be able to offer enhanced services to our community using existing limited resources.” says Scott Noesen, Midland County Commissioner.

NACo President Bryan Desloge said, “Counties overcome complex challenges, provide essential services and constantly do more with less. We applaud these Achievement Award-winning counties for outstanding efforts to improve residents’ quality of life.”

Nationally, awards are given in 18 different categories that reflect the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2017 Annual Conference and Exposition July 21–24 in Franklin County, Ohio.

Started in 1970, NACo’s annual Achievement Award Program is designed to recognize innovative county government programs. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

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The National Association of Counties (NACo) unites America’s 3,069 county governments. Founded in 1935, NACo brings county officials together to advocate with a collective voice on national policy, exchange ideas and build new leadership skills, pursue transformational county solutions, enrich the public’s understanding of county government and exercise exemplary leadership in public service. Learn more at www.naco.org

