

CAWST Training Courses

Date of publication: January 2026

The Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (CAWST) provides training that is adaptable to your needs, to support your work in water, sanitation or hygiene (WASH).

Our Training Courses

CAWST combines the experience and technical skills of our WASH experts and our instructional designers to offer you these high-quality training services.

The courses listed here are adaptable to the needs of your organization. We work with you to match courses with your goals for skills development and application, as well as your learning environment, your schedule, and your local context. Course content and length are all adaptable to your needs.

To get started, email us at support@cawst.org.

About CAWST

CAWST is a registered Canadian charity and licensed professional engineering consultancy with over two decades of experience, specializing in non-networked water and sanitation solutions. We build local knowledge and skills, helping our clients start, strengthen, or scale up their programs. We are known internationally for our capabilities in making learning opportunities easily accessible, online and offline. Through training, resources, and consulting services, we have supported thousands of organizations, including international NGOs, local civil society groups, entrepreneurs, governments, and UN agencies. Together, we are reaching more people faster with better WASH, creating lasting impact in communities around the world.

To learn more about CAWST and how we can support your work to make water knowledge common knowledge, visit cawst.org.

General Definitions for Course Formats

Facilitated Training - In Person

In-person courses are highly participatory and hands-on, delivered in a supportive learning environment. Participants learn in small groups, guided by expert facilitators with deep technical and field experience. They include interactive activities and group discussions, practical exercises and opportunities to share experiences with peers.

Facilitated Training - Online

Courses delivered in this format are guided by a trainer and delivered on a schedule. They offer a comprehensive learning experience that combines self-directed learning with webinars and instructor-facilitated online sessions.

Independent Study

Independent study online courses allow you to complete the training on your own and at your own pace. These courses are on-demand and interactive. You can start anytime, and earn a course certificate when you've finished.

Water

Introduction to Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS)

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person
- Facilitated Training - Online
- Independent Study
- Hybrid

Length: 2 - 3.5 days

Target Audience: Individuals who manage or sell water treatment products, make decisions or create policies related to water treatment, or implement household water treatment programs.

Description: This course introduces the basics of drinking water quality, the multi-barrier approach to safe drinking water, HWTS options, and HWTS implementation.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn how to define safe drinking water, identify risks to water safety and ways to reduce them. They will learn how to choose appropriate HWTS options to support behaviour change in local contexts.

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Introduction to Drinking Water Quality Testing

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person
- Facilitated Training - Online
- Independent Study
- Hybrid

Length: 4-5 days

Target Audience: Staff working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), community development or health projects seeking solutions for drinking water quality, program organizers or project managers with the responsibility for organizing projects and making decisions, students, technicians or individuals who will be taking water samples, conducting water quality tests using portable test kits, and interpreting results.

Description: This course teaches participants how to conduct drinking water quality tests for household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) and small community water supply projects. It introduces portable test kits for assessing drinking water. Participants will learn about sanitary inspections, water sampling, different testing methods, and water quality data analysis.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to use portable water testing kits to detect contaminants in drinking water and confidently communicate with WASH practitioners.

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Chlorination for Safe Drinking Water

Delivery Format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person
- Facilitated Training - Online
- Independent Study
- Hybrid

Length: 1-2 days

Target Audience: Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) professionals, drinking water treatment workers, household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS) workers, and community health workers.

Description: This course explores the risks to drinking water quality, the principles and effectiveness of chlorine, safe handling and storage of chlorine products, and calculating chlorine demands.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn how to describe the different types of chlorine, test water samples, and apply the multi-barrier approach for chlorine solutions. Participants will also learn how to use chlorine solutions to improve drinking water quality.

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Biosand Filter Project Implementation for Technicians

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 4-5 days

Target Audience: Staff working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), community development or health projects seeking solutions for safe water, have some familiarity with household water treatment and prepared to implement a biosand filter project, program organizers, community liaisons, technicians, front line supervisors, project managers, or project engineers.

Description: This course provides hands-on experience on the design, construction installation, operation, maintenance, and troubleshooting of biosand filters. It also includes analysis of effective models and approaches to the sustainable implementation of biosand filters.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to successfully build, install and implement biosand filter projects.

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Rainwater Harvesting

Delivery Format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 4-5 days

Target Audience: International development workers, water management workers, and people who want to promote household water treatment and safe storage (HWTS).

Description: This course covers rainwater harvesting technology for domestic use, construction, and maintenance, water supply and demand in developing countries, and the different types of water harvesting technology.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn how to calculate rainwater supply and demand, select rainwater harvesting technologies for local contexts, and discuss different HWTS technologies. Participants will also explore project implementation and how to establish a network with other project implementers.

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Sanitation

Introduction to Environmental Sanitation

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 2-2.5 days

Target Audience: Staff working in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), community development or health projects seeking solutions for environmental sanitation, program organizers, project managers.

Description: This course introduces sanitation-related disease transmission, covering management of human and animal waste, solid waste, domestic wastewater, vector control, and handwashing. The content is delivered through a project implementation framework and includes a site visit to identify environmental sanitation challenges.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn best practices for keeping household environments clean, safe, and healthy for families.

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Introduction to Sanitation in Emergencies

Delivery Format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person
- Facilitated Training - Online
- Independent Study

Length: 5 days

Target Audience: Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) professionals, WASH decision-makers, community development workers, health workers, project managers, project coordinators, engineers or technicians, and sanitation advocates.

Description: This course explores how to design and construct latrines and handwashing stations for remote communities based on local context and a sustainable project framework. This course also covers how to calculate the required size of a latrine pit, latrine excavation, and the different components of a sanitation system.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn how to modify latrines to make them accessible to everyone. Participants will also learn about hygiene, disease prevention, menstrual health needs; and sanitation needs on a local and global scale.

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Introduction to Fecal Sludge Management

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 2-3 days

Target Audience: Practitioners in developing countries who are or will be designing, planning, promoting or managing fecal sludge management systems.

Description: The course provides participants with an overview of technologies for fecal sludge collection, transportation, treatment, and use. Participants will learn about best practices, models, legal frameworks, finances, and challenges related to the management of a sustainable sanitation system. The hands-on component will enable participants to work on the planning and design of sanitation systems through case studies and scenarios.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to identify and discuss best practices in a sanitation system to properly manage fecal sludge.

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Program Design and Implementation

Community Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Promotion

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 3-5 days

Target Audience: Community leaders, WASH or health promoters, or individuals who are keen to teach others about WASH and improve its situation in their communities, project managers who will train, manage and monitor community WASH promoters, technicians who interact with households.

Description: The course explores the importance of WASH, behaviour change challenges, and key technical topics including household water treatment and safe storage, latrines, environmental sanitation, hygiene, and gender issues. It includes a practical module that equips participants to identify and prioritize WASH issues, analyze behavioural determinants, develop effective responses, and communicate clearly with community members.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to motivate members of the community to adopt healthy WASH habits.

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Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) in Schools

Delivery format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person
- Facilitated Training - Online
- Independent Study - Online
- Hybrid

Length: 3 days

Target Audience: Workers in WASH, community development, health, or project management.

Description: This course explains the importance of implementing handwashing practices, clean drinking water, menstrual health and hygiene (MHH), and menstrual education in school environments. It will also cover global and local issues in WASH, current water treatment practices, and disease prevention.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn how to use the 3-Star Approach to WASH services and practices in schools.

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Household Water Treatment and Safe Storage (HWTS) Program Design

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 4 days

Target Audience: People who have experience in water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), are responsible for making decisions about HWTS programs, or are currently designing, operating or planning a HWTS program (government, civil society, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations).

Description: This course provides an overview of the components needed for a successful HWTS program: understanding behaviour, stakeholder engagement, products and services, demand creation, capacity development, and finances and monitoring.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to design or strengthen a HWTS program for their context, have a greater awareness of factors influencing behaviour change and will be better equipped to support correct, consistent and continued use of HWTS in the communities and households they serve.

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Latrine Program Design

Delivery Format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 4 days

Target Audience: Latrine program decision-makers and designers or water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) workers.

Description: This course introduces the components needed for a successful latrine program: understanding behaviour, stakeholder engagement, products and services, demand creation, capacity development, finances and monitoring. This course also covers key phases of a program framework.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will learn about the different factors that can affect behaviour change, how to design appropriate latrine programs in local contexts, and how to support latrine maintenance in their communities.

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Facilitation and Instructional Design

Creating Effective Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Training

Delivery format:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: Variable

Target Audience: Those who are teaching or designing training materials for WASH, community development, or health projects.

Description: This course explores educational teaching models and how to use them for WASH training programs. This course also explores learner motivation, memory processes, training goals, and techniques for learning assessment.

Learning outcomes: Participants will learn how to use the ADDIE model (analyze, develop, design, implement, and evaluate) to create training materials, agendas, diverse learning activities, and how to pilot a lesson plan.

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Delivering Effective Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Training

Delivery Formats:

- Facilitated Training - In-person

Length: 5 days

Target Audience: Technicians and trainers who are part of a WASH, community development or health project, people seeking to enhance their facilitation and communication skills.

Description: This course teaches participants to effectively facilitate and adapt lessons on WASH based on learners' needs. They practice creating a safe learning environment, motivating learners and ensuring that information is relevant and appropriate. Through lessons and practical experience, participants also learn to ask effective questions, respond to learners and manage challenging training situations.

Learning Outcomes: Participants will be able to effectively deliver engaging WASH training courses.

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Ready to Start Training?

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If you don't see a course that fits your context, you can request customized training. To get started, email us at support@kawst.org.

Do you need support with a different topic?

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