

Imperial recently made a commitment to the protection of local groundwater supplies by entering the Groundwater Guardian program of The Groundwater Foundation.

Groundwater Guardian recognizes the groundwater protection accomplishments of community teams throughout the country and encourages citizen involvement at the local level.

To enter the Groundwater Guardian program, communities first must form a broad-based team of citizens, educators, business and/or agricultural representatives, and local government representatives.

This team then works together to implement activities that address local groundwater-related concerns and priorities, such as public awareness, education, conservation, pollution prevention, public policy or best management practices.

Members of Imperial's team include Heather Francis, Marla Smith, Jason Speck, Jane Moreland and Pat Davison.

Groundwater Guardian began in 1994 with eight pilot communities. Imperial has participated since 1995 and was among 139 communities in 34 states and one Canadian province designated as Groundwater Guardian Communities in 2008. New communities may enter the program at any time and there is no cost to participate.

The Groundwater Foundation is a non-profit organization based in Lincoln that works to educate the public about the nature and value of groundwater. Since its inception in 1985, the Foundation has offered various educational programs and opportunities for youth and adults.