



EPA's Sustainable Water Infrastructure Initiative

Sustainable Water Resources Roundtable
Meeting at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Washington, DC
January 26, 2007



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Sustainable Water Infrastructure

Background

- Our wastewater and drinking water systems are aging
- U.S. population is increasing and shifting
- Current treatment and management may not be sufficient to address emerging issues and potentially stronger requirements
- Investment in R&D has declined
- Funding gap: \$270 billion for wastewater and \$263 billion for drinking water

The “Gap Analysis” Findings (2000-2019)

No Revenue Growth Scenario

Total Payment Gap (20 Years) (Average in Billions of Dollars)		
	Clean Water	Drinking Water
Capital	\$122	\$102
O&M	\$148	\$161
Total	\$271	\$263

Revenue Growth Scenario

Total Payment Gap (20 Years) (Average in Billions of Dollars)		
	Clean Water	Drinking Water
Capital	\$21	\$45
O&M	\$10	\$0
Total	\$31	\$45

(Annual Rate of Increase = 3% Real)



Sustainable Water Infrastructure

Vision:

- Seek innovative approaches and new technologies to help ensure that the Nation's water infrastructure is sustainable
- Accomplish this through collaboration with external stakeholders and conducting research, in the following 4 "pillar" areas:
 - Better Management
 - Water Efficiency
 - Full Cost Pricing
 - Watershed-Based Approaches



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EPA's Role

- Advocating Sustainable Water Infrastructure in Our Day-To-Day Programs and Activities
- Partnership with Industry, States, Program Offices and Regions to Engage External Stakeholders
- Supporting the Agency's Strategic Plan
- Cross-cutting themes: innovation, partnerships, new technology, and research

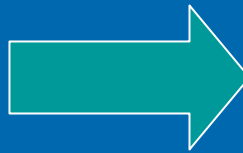


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Better Management Pillar

Goal: Change the paradigm:

Managing for
COMPLIANCE



Managing for
SUSTAINABILITY

Focus Areas:

- Utility management systems
- Capacity development and assistance for small systems
- Cost-effective technology selection



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Water Efficiency Pillar

Goal

Utilities and consumers value water as a limited resource. Consumers use water wisely, limiting use to the practical minimum required for successful performance. Utilities promote efficiency in water use by their customers and strive to eliminate loss and inefficiency in their operations.

Focus Areas

- Market enhancement for water-efficient products and services (landscape irrigation, high efficiency toilets)
- National organization to foster water efficiency
- Recognition program for water efficiency leaders
- Water efficiency in buildings and landscapes



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Full Cost Pricing Pillar

Goal

Utilities recognize their full cost of providing service over the long-term and implement pricing structures which recover costs and promote economically efficient and environmentally sound water use decisions by customers

Focus Areas

- Techniques for recognizing the long-term, full cost of providing service
- Options for cost allocation and rate design
- Implementation of full cost pricing



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Watershed Approach Pillar

Goal

By 2020, watershed approaches will be an integral part of infrastructure decision making. Utilities will think holistically about source water protection, drinking water, wastewater management and stormwater, involve other stakeholders, ...employ soft path technologies to increase infiltration and reduce runoff, and work collaboratively to find least-cost solutions to water quality and quantity problems.

Focus Areas

- Green infrastructure, Smart Growth
- Capacity-building of watershed groups, local governments
- Source Water Protection
- Watershed-Based Permitting
- Water Quality Trading



Recent Key EPA Activities

Sustainable Water Infrastructure



➤ Better Management:

- Statement of Intent for Effective Water Sector Utility Management, signed May 2006



➤ Full-Cost Pricing:

- Expert Workshop in November 2006 at Michigan State University

➤ Water Efficiency:

- Watersense--specification for High Efficiency toilets

➤ Watershed-based Approaches:

- EPA Forum on “A Watershed Approach to Utility Management” held on December 4 and 5, 2006, in Alexandria, VA



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Questions?

Visit us on the web

<http://www.epa.gov/waterinfrastructure/>

