

USACE release of Civil Works Strategic Plan 2011-2015 Questions and Answers

Q1. Why is USACE releasing the Civil Works Strategic Plan?

A1. The USACE Civil Works Strategic Plan for 2011 through 2015, entitled “Sustainable Solutions to America’s Water Resources Needs,” sets forth the vision, goals and strategies that will guide the organization and its program as a relevant 21st century organization that continues to contribute to the strength of the nation through innovative and sustainable solutions to the water resources challenges.

Q2. Why is the Civil Works Strategic Plan important to USACE?

A2. The strategic plan provides the overarching strategies to move USACE’s strategic direction to a more sustainable and holistic approach in solving our nation’s water resources challenges.

Q3. What is USACE’s ultimate objective for the release and implementation of the Civil Works Strategic Plan?

A3. The purpose and ultimate objective is to implement the overarching strategy of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). This holistic approach will provide the greatest benefit by moving the nation towards IWRM. The outcome of this approach will be sustainable water resources solutions that meet the nation’s needs through wise use of investment strategies.

Q4. What is the USACE Vision for Civil Works?

A4. The Civil Works vision is to “Be the Nation’s engineering leader in providing comprehensive, collaborative and sustainable solutions to public water resources needs.”

Q5. What is the USACE Civil Works mission?

A5. The USACE Civil Works mission is to serve the public by providing the nation with quality and responsive:

- Development and management of the nation’s water resources;
- Support marine transportation systems for commercial navigation;
- Protection and management of the natural environment;
- Restoration of aquatic ecosystems;
- Flood risk management and emergency management; and
- Engineering and technical services in an environmentally sustainable, economic, and technically sound manner with a focus on public safety and collaborative partnerships.

Q6. What are the Civil Works Strategic Plan goals?

A6. The five strategic goals for the USACE Civil Works Program are to:

- Assist in providing for safe and resilient communities and infrastructure;
- Help facilitate commercial navigation in an environmentally and economically sustainable fashion;
- Restore degraded aquatic ecosystems and prevent future environmental losses;
- Implement effective, reliable, and adaptive life-cycle performance management of infrastructure; and
- Build and sustain a high quality, highly dedicated workforce that delivers technical excellence.

Q7. What is Integrated Water Resources Management?

A7. Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) is the overarching strategy that will enable USACE to accomplish its civil works mission and translate its vision in the strategic plan into reality. IWRM is a holistic focus on water resource challenges and opportunities that reflects coordinated development and management of water, land and related resources. IWRM maximizes economic services and environmental quality and ensures public safety, while providing for the sustainability of vital ecosystems.

Q8. What are the six overarching strategies that will support USACE to move toward Integrated Water Resources Management as a nationwide approach to water resources management?

A8. The six strategies are: Systems Approach; Collaboration and Partnering; Risk-Informed Decision Making and Communication; Innovative Financing; Adaptive Management; State-of-the-Art Technology.

Q9. Is this Civil Works Strategic Plan a new version or have there been prior versions? If there have been prior versions, how does this one differ?

A9. This is not the first Civil Works Strategic Plan, it is a revision to the 2004-2009 current Civil Works Strategic Plan. The Civil Works Directorate is required to revised its strategic plan every five years as per the GPRA; therefore, this plan is the revised version of the current plan.

Q10. Will implementation of the Civil Works Strategic Plan require additional resourcing or congressional authorizations and appropriations?

A10. This Strategic Plan is not intended to have new broad initiatives, but rather new ways of thinking and conducting business in a holistic and comprehensive way. As a result, funding to implement this strategic plan will be considered as an operational mission.

Q11. In an era of constrained resources, is this an appropriate time for USACE to roll out a new strategic plan? Will USACE be able to implement the plan without additional resources?

A11. USACE recognizes in the strategic plan that the availability of federal, state, and local budget resources for water planning and management and infrastructure development in the current fiscal environment will have a direct impact on the nation's water resources infrastructure. Therefore, it is imperative to release the revised strategic plan which provides long term strategies to address our nationwide water resources challenges and drives the organization through an uncertain environment.

Q12. What is the connection between Civil Works Strategic Plan and the USACE Campaign Plan?

A12. The Civil Works (CW) Strategic Plan drives the direction of the USACE Campaign Plan. The CW strategic plan sets the strategic direction and focus for the many initiatives and actions presented in the campaign plan.