

# JERSEY WATER WORKS STEERING COMMITTEE

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**WE INTERACT WITH WATER EVERY DAY.** We turn on a tap to drink it, we bathe in it, we carry umbrellas when it rains. But that water is handled by distinct systems: drinking water systems provide water to our homes and businesses; wastewater systems take our dirty water and treat it; and stormwater systems make sure that rain doesn't flood our neighborhoods. The One Water approach integrates management across the water cycle for the benefit of communities.

## Join the Movement!

To stay informed on new efforts, to be sure your vision and needs are included, and to add your expertise and leadership, join Jersey Water Works.

**To learn more:** [www.JerseyWaterWorks.org](http://www.JerseyWaterWorks.org)

**To become a member:** [JerseyWaterWorks.org/Member](http://JerseyWaterWorks.org/Member)

## Questions?

Email [info@jerseywaterworks.org](mailto:info@jerseywaterworks.org)



Smart infrastructure. Strong communities.



[www.JerseyWaterWorks.org](http://www.JerseyWaterWorks.org)

*New Jersey Future serves as the "backbone organization" for Jersey Water Works, and members of its staff facilitate the collaborative's work.*

12/2019

# JERSEY WATER WORKS

Smart infrastructure. Strong communities.

Our communities, our health, and our economy depend upon modern, robust drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems. However, these systems are in desperate need of upgrades. And the problem is too big for one organization to tackle alone.

The Jersey Water Works collaborative engages people from an array of viewpoints, all with the goal of transforming New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure.

Together, we will achieve healthier, more prosperous and just communities and a more sustainable environment.





# ABOUT JERSEY WATER WORKS

Jersey Water Works is working to transform New Jersey's inadequate water infrastructure through sustainable, cost-effective solutions that provide communities with clean water and waterways; healthier, safer neighborhoods; local jobs; flood and climate resilience; and economic growth.

## 2013

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection signals its intention to require communities to upgrade their combined sewer systems.

## 2014

New Jersey Future releases *Ripple Effects*, highlighting the state's water infrastructure needs. Thought leaders craft an actionable response.

## 2015

21 leaders and scores of members launch Jersey Water Works, with a shared purpose statement and goals.

## 2016

Members contribute to help Jersey Water Works win a Governor's Environmental Excellence award.

## 2017

Jersey Water Works releases the report *Our Water Transformed*, refocusing the priorities of the collaborative.

## 2018/19

A Jersey Water Works task force releases the report *Lead in Drinking Water: A Permanent Solution for New Jersey*.

## WHAT WE ARE WORKING TOWARDS

Jersey Water Works members are committed to advancing the following shared goals over the next three to five years:



### EFFECTIVE AND FINANCIALLY SUSTAINABLE SYSTEMS

Communities maintain and improve drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure systems to deliver quality water services that meet community needs. Operating budgets and capital investment are adequate and affordable, resulting in systems that operate efficiently and in a state of good repair.



### EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Well-informed decision makers, community partners, residents and ratepayers participate actively in and influence the planning and management of their water infrastructure. They fully understand the importance of taking care of water infrastructure, including the costs of inaction.



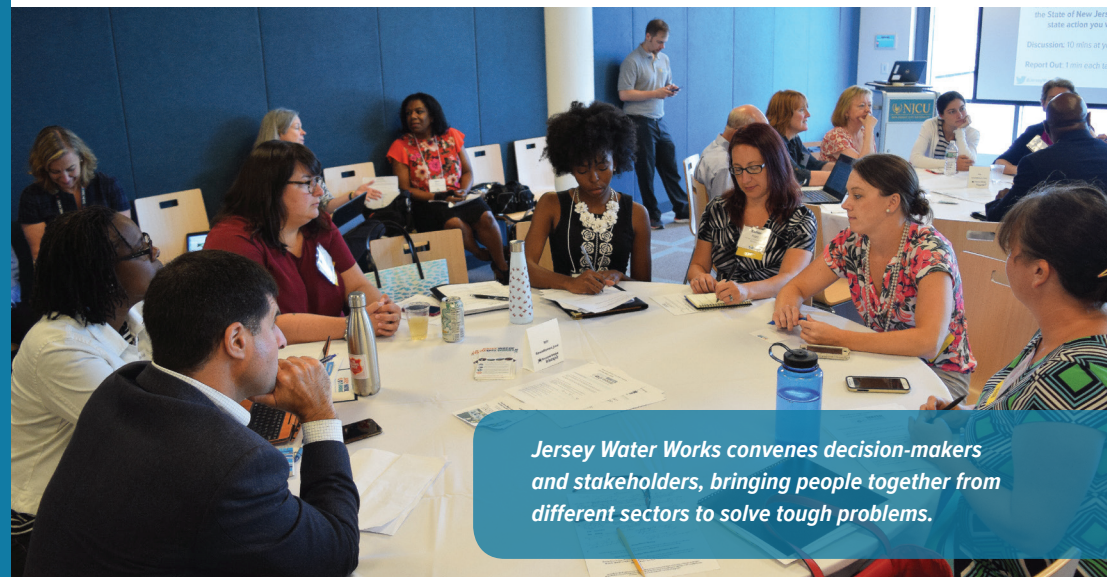
### SUCCESSFUL AND BENEFICIAL GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Communities employ green infrastructure in ways that maximize community benefits, including reduced flooding, improved water quality, local economies, community health, and long-term resiliency.



### SMART COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW (CSO) PLANS

Municipalities and utilities adopt innovative Long Term Control Plans for their combined-sewer systems, with cost-effective solutions that meet or exceed permit requirements and provide multiple community benefits.



Jersey Water Works convenes decision-makers and stakeholders, bringing people together from different sectors to solve tough problems.

## HOW WE DO IT

The Jersey Water Works collaborative engages the full spectrum of stakeholders — governmental, business, community, labor, nonprofit and academic — in a visible, active movement committed to “Smart Infrastructure. Strong Communities.” Our growing network of over 500 members champions our shared goals, and 3,000 have subscribed to follow our progress.

The collaborative is pursuing three priority solutions that emerged from its comprehensive strategic planning process:

- ➔ **ADEQUATE FUNDING** for capital investments;
- ➔ **ROBUST ASSET MANAGEMENT** plans to help water utilities prioritize and direct those investments;
- ➔ **SUSTAINED PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH** to build support for those investments.

The collaborative works to implement solutions like these through:

- ➔ **Partnerships**, like the One Water Awards, where industry associations join to recognize holistic projects and programs.
- ➔ **Education**, such as through coordinated testimony to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Drinking Water Infrastructure.
- ➔ **Development of best practices**, such as simple metrics that show whether drinking water systems are improving or getting worse.
- ➔ **Reports**, like *Our Water Transformed*.
- ➔ **Policy development**, such as on ways to keep water and sewer rates affordable and equitable, and coordinating on state laws and rules.
- ➔ **Resources**, like *Your Water Actions*.

### THE NEED:

Many of New Jersey's water systems are old and failing. The state loses an estimated 130 million gallons of clean, potable water daily due to leaky pipes. Some communities have drinking water contaminated with lead, and backups cause flooding of raw sewage into rivers, streets and basements. To fix this, New Jersey's water infrastructure is estimated to need \$25 billion in upgrades over the next 20 years.



### THE SOLUTION:

Investments like this green infrastructure project exemplify the “One Water” approach to integrated water management. Rainfall will be absorbed into the ground, replenishing drinking water supplies, rather than contributing to sewer overflows.

