



# Lead in Drinking Water: A Permanent Solution for New Jersey

## POLICY | ADVOCACY | IMPLEMENTATION

New Jersey Future, Jersey Water Works Lead In Drinking Water Task Force, Lead-Free NJ, Lead In Drinking Water Task Force LSL Implementation Workgroup

### Background and Motivation

Every New Jerseyan deserves a safe, healthy environment that nurtures their full potential. Recent events force us to confront the fact that lead exposure impedes this basic goal, posing exceptional threats to children, their families, and impacting all of us. To address the risk from lead in water, Jersey Water Works, with support from the Fund for New Jersey, convened a 30-member task force of representatives from local, state, and federal governments, water utilities, academia, environmental and public health groups, and community organizations. The group's efforts build on those of many others, most recently the Green and Healthy Homes Initiative's New Jersey Lead Poisoning Prevention Action Plan of 2018.



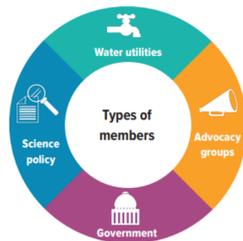
### Stakeholder Engagement and Collaboration

#### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Solutions are...



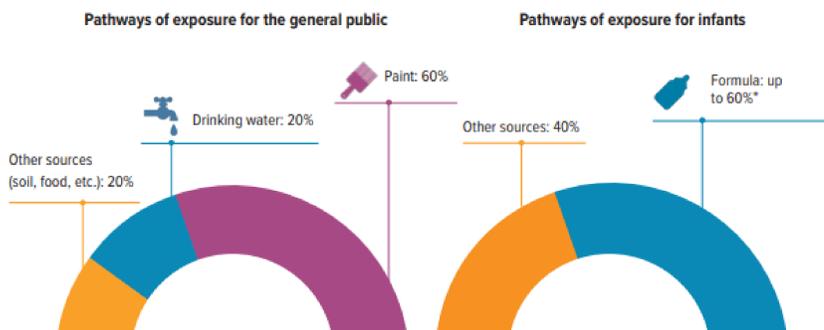
#### TASK FORCE MEMBERS



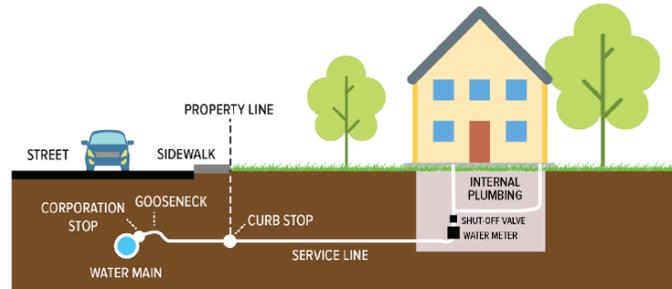
The Lead in Drinking Water Task Force was organized by Jersey Water Works (JWW), a 600-member collaborative. Since 2015, JWW has deployed a cross-sector approach to tackle the challenge of making our water systems a foundational asset for economic growth and thriving, just communities. This group was selected with one goal in mind: to provide a diverse set of viewpoints and expert advice on a complicated and compelling subject. Staff support was provided by New Jersey Future.

### Early Findings

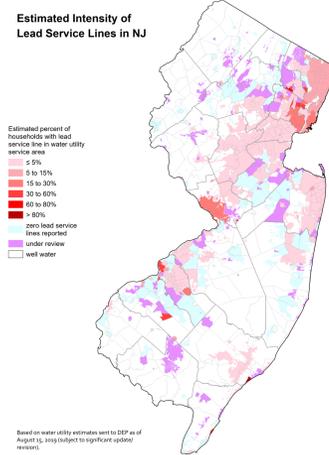
#### PATHWAYS OF LEAD EXPOSURE



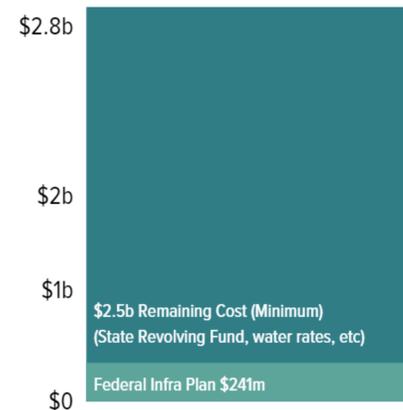
### Research Findings



There are an estimated 350,000 LSLs in New Jersey, ranking the fifth highest in the nation, with a projected replacement cost of \$2.8 billion. Thus far, NJ will get a total of \$241 million over 5 years to replace lead pipes through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for an estimated \$138 per LSL. Significant gaps remain between funding and needs.

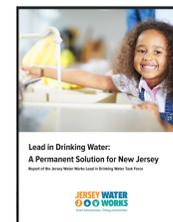


#### Lead Service Line Replacement (\$2.8b Total Need) Potential State Resources (FY22 - FY26)



### 2019 Policy Recommendations

- Action 1: Coordinate a state-level campaign for a lead-free New Jersey.
- Action 2: Permanently replace lead service lines in 10 years through a comprehensive, interdependent legislative package.
- Action 3: Create a 10-year funding program for LSL replacement.
- Action 4: Enact protective rules and programs to ensure safe drinking water.
- Action 5: Ensure quality water in child care facilities and schools.



### Completed Actions

Action 1: Coordinate a state-level campaign for a lead-free New Jersey.



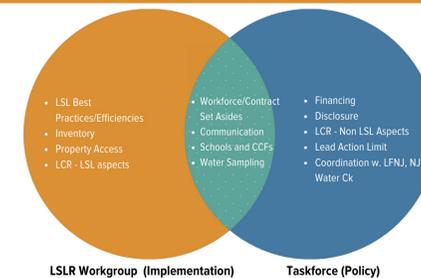
Lead-Free New Jersey was developed to address lead holistically (paint, water and soil) in our state. The collaborative ensures that our children are free from lead poisoning and our environment is lead-safe by advocating for changes to state and local policy. Given the serious public health impact of exposure to lead in water, paint, and soil, its reach into many communities, and the ongoing need to raise awareness, a comprehensive state campaign would maximize efficiency and ensure that all residents can adequately protect themselves.

Action 2: Permanently replace lead service lines (LSLs) in 10 year through a comprehensive, interdependent legislative package.



To address this public health crisis, the State of New Jersey enacted a statute in July 2021 (P.L. 2021, c.183) that established deadlines for action by public water systems. Most importantly, local water utilities must develop a service line inventory and prepare a plan to replace all LSLs within ten years and must periodically notify customers whose property is served by a LSL.

### Moving Towards Implementation



The Lead Service Line Working Group will identify and share practical ways to implement replacement programs, for utilities large and small. Benefits include increased efficiency/effectiveness, lower costs, faster progress, equitable outcomes across all types of communities, and compliance with statutory deadlines. The working group will:

- Develop and share best practices
- Evaluate potential new options to improve service delivery
- Provide feedback to NJDEP on guidance and interpretational issues.

### Resources

Jersey Water Works is working to transform our 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. The below publications were developed by the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force, and specifically its Lead Service Line Implementation Workgroup, which includes water utility officials, consultants, and public policy advocates.



Model Ordinance: Access to Private Property



Procurement Toolkit Draft for Request for Qualifications (RFQ)



Alternative Procurement Options for Lead Service Line Replacement



Fifth Liter Sampling: EPA's Newly-Mandated Technique