



What Our Members Recommend for State Action

State government can take action to help ensure modern, reliable water infrastructure.

Listed below are member recommendations for state action that align with the Jersey Water Works mission and goals. As a diverse collaborative organization, Jersey Water Works does not take advocacy positions on state or federal legislation. However, many of its members engage in direct advocacy and lobbying, and some of them have developed platforms with recommended actions for the next gubernatorial administration. *Note that this list will be updated as we learn of additional platforms.*

New Jersey League of Conservation Voters:¹

Reduce Exposure to Lead in Public Drinking Water Systems

Policy Recommendations:

- Increase testing of water sources, especially those used regularly by infants and children; including a revision of BOE requirements to include private schools
- Identify and secure increased funds for infrastructure replacement, including fixtures, lead soldered pipes, and aging drinking water lines
- Research alternate effective water treatments to prevent lead from leaching into drinking water

Increase Resiliency to Flooding

Policy Recommendations:

- Ensure sufficient funds and a mandate for severe weather event planning, at all levels of government
- Require, and sufficiently fund, the inclusion of forward-looking climate data and a robust analysis of risk and vulnerability in all plans, at all levels, from municipal master plans to the State Plan, with guidance on projections for sea-level rise over time, and on time horizons for various types of planning (100 years for major infrastructure, for example)
- Strengthen the state hazard-mitigation plan, which is due to be updated in 2019, by requiring greater integration and coordination with county plans that will help direct funding appropriately and reduce improper land use

Eliminate Combined Sewer Overflows

Policy Recommendations:

- The New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (NJEIT) should continue its policy of providing interest-free financing for permittees and cities with combined sewer systems to address CSOs, including the principal forgiveness program developed for green infrastructure projects. Additional money should be allocated for these projects
- Improved communications of sewage discharges. Currently, permittees provide notice of sewage discharges on a website. Ideally, notification to communities also would include email or text alerts
- DEP should encourage the inclusion of green infrastructure projects as part of the solution to capturing stormwater before it enters the combined system
- Integration of CSO permit implementation with DEP's other water quality programs, including stormwater management permits (e.g., Municipal Separate Storm Sewer permits)

¹ We have omitted some recommendations that do not fall under the Jersey Water Works goal system. You can see the full NJLCV platform on its website.

The Jersey Water Works collaborative is transforming 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.

Improve Wastewater Infrastructure & Management

Policy Recommendations:

- Mandate the inclusion of green infrastructure in future water quality regulatory or permitting mechanisms, such as stormwater permits or Long Term Control Plans
- Continue prioritization of Environmental Infrastructure Trust funds for green infrastructure, including the principle forgiveness for such loans
- Require asset management of owner/operators of wastewater systems, including proactive management and maintenance of assets
- Require improved future capacity analysis at wastewater treatment facilities, triggered when capacity reaches 80%
- Develop more robust water conservation measures for existing and new development, to alleviate the pressure on aging wastewater infrastructure system

Manage Water Crises

Policy Recommendations:

Flooding:

- Revise DEP regulations regarding development
 - require installation of green infrastructure in all redevelopment and new development
 - reduce removal of beneficial stream bank vegetation that helps to stabilize soil
 - prohibit any new development in floodplains – coastal and inland

Drought:

- Update and revise the Water Supply Master Plan
- Establish a public education program and implement it when a drought watch is declared
- Evaluate water allocation and other regulations for opportunities to require efficiency
 - fix leaking water distribution lines
 - implement drip irrigation for agriculture

Protect Clean Drinking Water

Policy Recommendations:

- Reverse the regulatory revisions of the Christie administration and strengthen groundwater standards, drinking water standards, Flood Hazard and water quality rules
- Update New Jersey's decades-overdue Water Supply Master Plan
- Create a research agenda to examine long-term trends in water quality and quantity, expected impacts of climate change, the interaction between groundwater and surface water, and potential impacts on water quality of continued population growth
- Create educational resources for families and improve public outreach on water quality issues, including well and septic testing and maintenance, and contaminants of concern (such as lead, arsenic, PFCs, mercury, and radionuclides)

New Jersey Future:

Invest wisely in infrastructure. Make smart, cost-effective investments in transportation and water infrastructure to make New Jersey more competitive and our communities healthier.

Pursue a "One Water" strategy to modernize inadequate drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems in ways that strengthen communities and support future growth

- Provide technical assistance and funding to help communities modernize aging water systems, especially where public health is threatened by combined-sewer outflows or contaminated drinking water.
- Enact legislation that allows local or regional stormwater utilities and subsequent user fee collection to support infrastructure and management.
- Adopt comprehensive plans by 2020 that will eliminate combined-sewer overflows by 2040.

Smart infrastructure. Strong communities.

The Jersey Water Works collaborative is transforming 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.

- Advance green infrastructure efforts to control stormwater runoff through improved NJDEP and NJDCA regulations, grant programs, and training.
- Improve transparency on water infrastructure conditions by requiring localities to conduct and share the results of water loss audits, capital funding levels, and asset management assessments.
- Promote and integrate Green Streets and Complete Streets programs and increase coordination between NJDOT and NJDEP.
- Incentivize the use of cost-effective and innovative technologies, such as sensors and energy efficiency, in water infrastructure planning and implementation.
- Promote testing, transparency, training and public education in order to minimize exposure to lead in drinking water, and work to find ways to modernize aged water systems.
- Create a statewide ratepayer assistance program to ensure water services are affordable to all.

Incorporate climate risk into decision-making. Prepare our communities for the consequences of climate change and sea level rise through long-term planning and education about the growing risk of flooding.

Integrate science-based sea level rise projections and other climate change risk into decision-making at all levels of government

- Partner with the private sector to measure climate change risk to critical telecommunications, water, and energy infrastructure and ensure resiliency criteria are met; scale back new state infrastructure investments in at-risk areas and incentivize towns and counties to do likewise.
- Update the state's water supply master plan, taking into account climate change.
- Develop a state-wide coastal management plan as a framework for state and local infrastructure planning and capital budgeting, with a regional implementation and adaptation strategy.

Smart infrastructure. Strong communities.

The Jersey Water Works collaborative is transforming 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.