

JERSEY WATER WORKS:

Solutions That Form Our Action Agenda

AS DETAILED IN THE PRECEDING ESSAY, *Transforming New Jersey's Water Infrastructure: A Call to Action and Innovation*, we face an enormous water infrastructure problem in New Jersey and across the country. In order to achieve better outcomes, Neukrug and Lind argue that we must rethink how we manage, design and rebuild our water systems with a new vision that can transform not only the water sector, but the future landscape of our cities and towns. Their essay lays out a broad set of strategic options that can move communities to a sustainable water future.

How to get started? States often act as laboratories to solve national problems. **Engaging stakeholders from all perspectives — from consumers and community advocates to utilities leadership and policy makers, to environmentalists and academics — the Jersey Water Works collaborative has taken the lead in identifying steps New Jersey can take to improve its water infrastructure dramatically.**

JERSEY WATER WORKS PRIORITY SOLUTIONS

Since its inception in 2015 as a strong collaborative directed by the consensus of its diverse membership, Jersey Water

Jersey Water Works Priority Solutions for 2020

Laying the groundwork for wide-scale transformation of our water infrastructure systems.

1 INCENTIVIZE AND REQUIRE ASSET MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Immediate Priorities:

- Require asset management programs with phased implementation for drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems, including through capital improvement plans and funding.
- Authorize stormwater utilities and stormwater fees.

Longer Term Solutions:

- Provide more state matching grants.
- Build capacity of small and poor performing utilities, including through peer-to-peer networks.

2 EDUCATE THE PUBLIC AND ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Immediate Priorities:

- Raise awareness among the public and elected and appointed officials of the importance of taking care of water infrastructure.
- Educate on the costs of inaction, i.e. of not doing asset management and on the potential loss of community benefits.
- Require utilities to provide, and state agencies to collect and publish, simple metrics of system condition and utility finances.

Longer Term Solutions:

- Require training for utility boards and local officials.
- Require utilities to integrate the community master plan and redevelopment vision, as well as focused community input, into their asset management program.

3 SUPPORT AND SHAPE EXISTING AND NEW GOVERNMENT FUNDING INITIATIVES

Immediate Priorities:

- Support and shape new state funding for water programs that advance Jersey Water Works goals.
- Communicate importance of federal State Revolving Fund and U.S. Department of Agriculture financing programs.

Note: The participation of state and federal government members of the Steering Committee does not constitute individual or organizational endorsement of any of the recommendations presented here, especially regarding new funding or legislation.