

2019 Work Plan

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.

To make progress towards this objective, the collaborative and its committees have adopted the following projects for 2019.



Asset Management and Finance Committee

Committee goal: 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.

- Advance water and sewer affordability for low-income customers by:
 - Finalizing and issuing a white paper with a menu of state policy options to ensure affordability;
 - Establishing a consensus methodology for measuring affordability issues, using it to assess New Jersey communities, and issuing a report on the benchmark findings.
- Issue a baseline assessment of drinking water utility capital investments in New Jersey.
- Review and issue comments on state government proposals, including New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) guidance for stormwater utilities, efforts to require asset management for wastewater systems, and Water Quality Accountability Act recommendations.
- Recommend, in partnership with industry groups, level-of-service goals for use with asset management programs.
- Represent Jersey Water Works and promote its work at industry and partner conferences and workshops, in coordination with backbone staff.



Education and Outreach Committee

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

- Host or participate in two events to promote water workforce development, such as running facility tours, career days, or job fairs, and share supporting materials.
- Make existing informational resources on water infrastructure more accessible for residents and other stakeholders by creating a new Jersey Water Works website interface.
- Implement a pilot schools program in Robbinsville to educate grade-school students on water infrastructure and share lessons learned.
- Host or participate in at least two national water infrastructure awareness events such as Infrastructure Week and Imagine A Day Without Water, and amplify those efforts through Jersey Water Works' communications platforms.



Green Infrastructure

Committee goal: Communities employ green infrastructure in a way that maximizes community benefits, including reduced flooding and improved water quality, local economies, community health and long-term resiliency.

- Work with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to create and promote a Green Streets handbook for New Jersey communities.
- Recommend revisions to Sustainable Jersey's Complete Street Actions to include green stormwater management.
- Recommend policies to the DEP regarding reasonable use of green infrastructure within Green Acres-restricted parks.
- Issue recommendations, based on a national review of best practices, for New Jersey stormwater utilities to create green infrastructure incentive programs.
- Continue the *Green Infrastructure Champions* program by making training broadly accessible through webinars and the development of a "train the trainer" program.
- Establish a process to solicit and share New Jersey green infrastructure projects and case studies to include in existing green infrastructure inventories.



Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Committee

Committee goal: Municipalities and utilities adopt innovative CSO Long Term Control Plans (LTCPs) with cost-effective solutions that meet or exceed permit requirements and provide multiple community benefits.

- Maximize the impact of the CSO Committee's reports *Balancing Green and Gray Solutions to CSO Management* and *Hidden Capacity: How Proper Maintenance and Cleaning of Sewer Systems Can Have Huge Benefits!* through promotion and active distribution of the documents to stakeholders including DEP, CSO supplemental teams, and others.
- Assist CSO municipalities and utilities with resource gaps by providing technical assistance, resource sharing, or other means.
- Review the LTCP Development and Evaluation of Alternatives reports due to the DEP on July 1 and develop a summary document highlighting:
 - Consideration of green and gray infrastructure;
 - Consideration of community input;
 - A list of the alternatives considered in each report with descriptive information on their review; and
 - Innovative ideas.
- Share with CSO permit holders next-tier opportunities related to CSO mitigation, such as integrated planning, increased community engagement, workforce development with green infrastructure, odor control best practices, and the CSO/climate connection.