

# Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Task Force

## Public Commitments

The public commitments listed below are from the members of the [Jersey Water Works Lead in Drinking Water Task Force](#). They are either new projects, programs, or resources that help advance the goal of drastically reducing lead in drinking water in New Jersey and build momentum for future implementation of the report's recommendations.

### **Chairman Chris Daggett**

Chairman Daggett will publish an op-ed promoting lead in drinking water solutions.

### **The Fund for New Jersey**

The Fund for New Jersey has committed to another year of philanthropic funding in support of a lead-free New Jersey, including a grant to New Jersey Future to support the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force. Funds will go toward staffing the task force, with a particular focus on implementation of the task force policy recommendations

### **New Jersey Future (NJF)**

Following the release of the report, NJF staff (under the Jersey Water Works banner) will facilitate a one-hour webinar on the Lead in Drinking Water Task Force recommendations featuring a handful of speakers and a question/answer period. As a pilot program for New Jersey, NJF will research the best methods to project the number of lead service lines in the absence of a complete inventory.

### **Department of Children and Families (DCF)**

DCF has applied to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a \$1.5 million federal grant through the Water Infrastructure Improvement for the Nation Act (WIIN) to comprehensively test all of the 4,200 state-licensed child care centers in 18 months (i.e., by August, 2021). If funds remain, some portion of the family-run child care providers that have voluntarily registered with the department will be tested.

### **Department of Education**

In coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Education will continue to gather input from stakeholders on spending guidelines for the \$100 million in state funds provided under the Securing Our Children's Future bond act for water infrastructure improvements in New Jersey schools.

### **Department of Community Affairs**

To increase overall efficiency, the Department of Community Affairs will participate in collaborative efforts to identify a more holistic approach to building inspections relating to lead exposure, one that includes lead in water.

### **City of East Orange - Department of Health and Human Services**

The City of East Orange is committed to maintaining its own water supply. Under direction of the Board of Water Commissioners, the East Orange Water Department conducts regular testing of its water quality and will continue to make investments as needed to provide clean water to its residents. All testing is conducted by an independent third party lab and results are provided to state regulatory agencies.

### **City of Bordentown**

The Bordentown City Water Department will continue to employ a comprehensive, data-driven approach to investigating lead in drinking water, one that includes exploratory digging of curb boxes and testing of fire

hydrants at or near homes with exceedances, free water sampling to all users, and ongoing public events to educate residents. Since the data collected thus far indicates no lead service lines in the city's distribution system, the city will examine interior lead plumbing as a possible source.

#### **Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority**

The Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority will increase awareness of the hazards associated with lead in drinking water by disseminating informational brochures in its quarterly bills and creating educational videos encouraging residents to "let it run to get the lead out" if their homes were built before 1986.

#### **Passaic Valley Water Commission**

The Commission will remove the remaining utility-owned lead service lines (approximately 800 in total) by the end of its current two-year contract with a private remediation firm (i.e., by 2021).

#### **American Water Works Association (AWWA)**

The AWWA, acting through its Infrastructure Management Committee, will lead a team of interested parties in developing a model ordinance for lead service line replacement. This effort, which will be particularly helpful for municipalities, will fill an important informational gap in the development of such programs and thus accelerate their implementation.

#### **Trenton Water Works**

To help improve public safety, Trenton Water Works will publish an online map of the lead service lines throughout its service area.

#### **New Jersey American Water**

New Jersey American Water, which invests over \$300 million annually in service areas that supply water to 2.7 million people, will identify lead service lines in its system, advocate for full LSL replacement and constructive cost recovery approaches to support it, use corrosion control methods and water quality monitoring to continue to meet lead and copper regulations, and educate customers on how to mitigate their exposure.

#### **City of Newark - Division of Water**

The City of Newark commits to replacing every lead service line within its inventory within 24 to 30 months.

#### **Isles**

Isles will provide technical assistance to community development organizations in other communities that want to conduct comprehensive home inspections for lead in paint, water, and soil.

#### **East Trenton Collaborative**

The East Trenton Collaborative will increase awareness of lead in drinking water among affected community members by distributing information and hosting a forum on the topic of water safety.

#### **Housing and Community Development Network of New Jersey**

The Network is pleased to be a part of the Task Force and to commit to advancing its recommendations by hosting a webinar for its members, partners, and allies about the Task Force's report and including policy initiatives that support water safety and access in its advocacy efforts to secure healthy, lead-free homes and communities.

### **Green and Health Homes Initiative**

GHHI will continue its work providing substantive technical assistance to the state and local lead poisoning prevention programs, as well as advancing holistic lead hazard inspections that include lead-based paint, soil, and drinking water, focused on children with elevated blood lead levels across New Jersey.

### **Advocates for Children of NJ (ACNJ)**

ACNJ will advocate with the governor's office, state agencies, and legislators for a coordinated state effort around lead prevention and a designated official point person to manage lead prevention activities across multiple departments. ACNJ will advocate for creation of memoranda of understanding that allow for more data sharing, especially child blood lead screening data, as well as more publicly accessible disclosure of lead testing results in water and housing.

### **New Jersey Urban Mayors Association**

The New Jersey Urban Mayors Association will partner to sponsor an event on municipal water management. Topics will include lead abatement, crisis management, communication to residents, and financial assistance tools.

### **Raritan Headwaters Association**

Raritan Headwaters Association will present a Watershed Tools for Local Leaders seminar on lead testing, treatment, and abatement, including an online "Lead Toolkit" education and outreach service to municipalities and other groups. In addition, the longstanding Community Well Testing program will highlight a special "Get the Lead Out" campaign for the next three years enabling all residents on private well and public water to easily test their drinking water for lead.

### **Clean Water Action**

Clean Water Action will develop and share effective and replicable community-based communications and outreach models that engage the public in achieving the solutions they seek with regards to lead. The organization will advocate for adoption of local, state, and federal policies that ensure adequate funding, timely action, full disclosure, and removal of lead hazards, with special attention to households least able to act on their own and most vulnerable to lead exposure and related harms.

### **Environment New Jersey**

Environment New Jersey and Environment New Jersey Research and Policy Center will commit organizational resources, including outreach to its more than 20,000 citizen members, to actively promote research findings on the need for full replacement of lead service lines (LSLs); lobby the legislature for comprehensive LSL replacement legislation; advocate to the Drinking Water Quality Institute for a truly health protective lead in drinking water standard; and advocate to the Murphy administration for more regular testing of lead in school drinking water that is fully disclosed electronically.

### **Dan Van Abs (Associate Professor of Practice for Water, Society, and the Environment, Rutgers University)**

In NJ Spotlight or a similar forum, commits to publishing an op-ed about the lead in drinking water issue and its potential solutions.

### **Robert Tucker (Retired Scientist, Department of Environmental Protection)**

Robert Tucker will write op-eds concerning New Jersey's lead in drinking water problem and potential solutions.