



Draft Reuse Action Plan Highlights Objectives to Ensure Water Security October 2019

On September 16, EPA published its Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan (Action Plan) for public comment. The Action Plan contains 46 action items that effect ten water reuse strategic objectives to help ensure that water will be available and effectively used. According to the Action Plan, 40 out of 50 state water managers expect freshwater shortages within ten years. Water reuse can help promote water security (access), sustainability (continual supply), and resilience (adapting to changes). The Action Plan also details sources of water and potential applications for reuse, guiding principles for the Action Plan, and how the plan was drafted. The ten strategic objectives are listed below with some of the action items that relate directly to water utilities and municipalities:

1. Take an integrated and collaborative approach for water reuse at the watershed scale.
 - Incorporate water reuse and capture concepts into local integrated planning efforts.
2. Coordinate federal/state/tribal/local water reuse programs and policies.
 - Enhance wastewater source control through local pretreatment programs to support water reuse opportunities;
 - Develop information materials to better enable water reuse in NPDES permits;
 - Incorporate stormwater capture considerations in assessing stormwater finance needs; and
 - Enhance CSO/SSO abatement strategies.
3. Compile and create fit-for-purpose treatment specifications for water reuse end uses.
 - Convene experts to address challenges related to stormwater capture and reuse.
4. Promote technology development, deployment, and validation to accelerate water reuse opportunities.
5. Improve availability of water quality and quantity information for available water.
 - Identify monitoring best practices for various water sources and reuse applications.
6. Facilitate financial support to enable water reuse projects.



- Promote eligibility of existing SRF and WIFIA funding for water reuse.
7. Integrate and coordinate current and past research on water reuse.
 8. Improve outreach and communication to garner public support.
 9. Support a talented and dynamic water reuse workforce.
 - Support state development of a pilot operator certification program for water reuse applications.
 10. Develop water reuse metrics that support goals and measure progress.

Comments are due by December 16. More information is available at <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/draft-national-water-reuse-action-plan>.