



2022 Annual Membership Survey

- **45 States and Interstates are Represented, 114 Participants**
- **25 responses were from the ACWA Member, 89 were from Member Staff**
- **93.1% Find Topic Specific Workshops Useful/Very Useful, 3.5% Never Used**
- **92.9% Find Conference Calls/Webinars Useful/Very Useful, 2.7% Never Used,**
- **79.7% Find the Weekly Wrap Useful/Very Useful**
- **79.5% Find Letters to EPA Useful/Very Useful, 7.1% Never Used, 8.1% Unaware**
- **76.1% Find Small Workgroup Meetings w/EPA Useful/Very Useful, 7.9% Never Used**
- **69.3% Find Letters to Congress Useful/Very Useful, 11.7% Never Used, 12.6% Unaware**
- **55.1% Find Membership Emails Useful/Very Useful**
- **50.5% Find the Website Useful/Very Useful, 19.5% Never Used, 3.7% Unaware**
- **33.6% Find the Annual Report Useful/Very Useful**
- **20.8% Find EPA Budget Chart Useful/Very Useful, 25.2% Never Used, 47.8% Unaware**
- **20.0% Find EPA Rules Chart Useful/Very Useful, 23.6% Never Used, 49.1% Unaware**
- **19.7% Find Member365 Useful/Very Useful, 21.4% Never Used, 49.9% Unaware**
- **9.9% Find the Experts Directory Useful/Very Useful, 33.3% Never Used, 46.0% Unaware**
- **6.2% Find LEADS Useful/Very Useful, 32.7% Never Used, 52.2% Unaware**
- **Current Service Areas Identified Where ACWA Should Invest More**
 - More Calls/Webinars
 - More Topic Specific Meetings
 - Make LEADS Available to All
 - More Immersive/Hybrid Events, More Mics, Camera Tracking, etc.
 - Longer Meetings – More Topics
 - Increase Federal Funding for States
 - More Training for State Staff

- Pretreatment Workgroup
 - CAFO Workgroup
 - Improved Communication with New Members of ACWA
 - Description of All ACWA Services
 - Staff Director with Program Responsibilities
 - Improve Meeting Notification Process – Earlier Outreach
 - EPA Rules Chart
 - Improve ACWA Website
 - Increase State Face to Face Participation at Meetings
 - Greater Use Permit Writers Clearinghouse
 - Duplicate Calls on Hot Topics – For Those That Miss
 - EPA Legal Statement on EJ Authority
 - More Collaboration with Drinking Water/Groundwater Organizations
 - Increased Travel Support for Meeting
 - Database Use Training
- **Examples of New Service Areas ACWA Should Invest**
 - National Discussion Forums Specific to NPDES Program Areas
 - WQS Package Tracking Tool/Table and include new priorities for State
 - New Workgroup that Focuses on EPA-Services Engagement on WQS
 - Federal Legislation Tracking
 - Workforce/Succession Planning/Staffing Resources
 - Committee/Workgroup Directories
 - TMDL Modeling Clearinghouse
 - ELG Clearinghouse
 - State CAFO Programs
 - Greater Use/Promotion of the NPDES Permit Writers Clearinghouse
 - Access to Water Related Academic Journals
 - Regulation Tracker
 - Regional Workgroups
 - Costs for Different Treatment Technologies
 - Articulate What Cooperative Federalism Should Look Like
 - CWA News Feed to Members
 - Recorded Video Summary of ACWA Services – Share Link Regularly
 - Travel Support for One Person Per State Per Meeting
 - Easy Access to State Directory of Staff & Committees They Participate
- **95.1% Believe ACWA has the Right Mix of Committees and Workgroups**
 - Multiple Suggestions for Separate Stormwater Workgroups (Industrial, Municipal, Construction)
 - Suggestion for More Active Climate Change Workgroup
 - Suggestion for More ELG Related Content from Permitting & Compliance Committee
 - Suggestion for Committee with Focus on Voluntary BMP Programs
 - More Communication on How States Are Using BIL
 - More Communication on How ATTAINS Will Be Improving

- **96.2% Indicated They Believe ACWA Does a Good Job Leveraging Communication**
 - Earlier Website Notification of Upcoming Meetings – 9 Months Minimum
 - More Communication Regarding Stormwater Program Updates
 - More Communication Regarding ACWA’s Services
 - Refresher on How Use Member365
 - Ensure Webinars Have Presentations/Video

- **79.5% Are Aware ACWA Provides Travel Support to Meetings**

- **69.9% Have Used Such Travel Support**

- **99.1 % Support the Use of Hybrid Meetings**

- **36.7% Believe Early Notice of Virtual Component to Meeting Would Likely Undermine Face to Face Travel Request**
 - Many States Provided Details Regarding When Impact Might Occur

- **Top Programmatic Challenges Identified by Survey Responses – In Order of Interest**
 - Nutrients Criteria, Standards, Permitting, TMDLs, and Reductions
 - PFAS and Other Emerging Contaminants
 - NPDES Reporting Rule Implementation and Other ICIS Concerns
 - WQS Development, Criteria, Implementation, Variances, UAAs
 - Staffing Training, Retention, Turnover, and Shortages
 - Climate Change Impacts to CWA Programs
 - Incorporating Environmental Justice Into Program Decisions
 - Compliance Assistance and Enforcement Approaches
 - Challenges with Municipalities – CSOs, WWTPs, Blending, Stormwater, Infrastructure, and Funding

- **Ways ACWA Could Help with These Programmatic Challenges**
 - More Calls, Webinars, Trainings
 - State by State Comparisons
 - Recommend Regulatory & Guidance Updates
 - More Technical Committees/Workgroups
 - More State and Local Funding Advocacy
 - Support Softer Aspects of CWA Programs – Funding, Communication, Training, Support Resources
 - Develop Plain Language Resources States Could Use
 - Need a Workforce Committee

- **29% Were Interested in More Information Regarding ACWA’s Leadership Opportunities**

- **Quotes Associated with Valuing ACWA – Example Responses**
 - ACWA continues to provide excellent opportunities, at all levels of state water quality program staff and management, for peer-to-peer and state-to-EPA networking and learning along with opportunities to engage in and influence national water quality policies.
 - ACWA helps coordinate between states, and keep states apprised of current issues and advancements in science that we all use. However, I do believe there needs to be more reaching out to management at the state level about the importance of the opportunities and investing in people going to workshops and being involved.
 - ACWA helps my state keep on the pulse of national issues, helps us participate directly with EPA on issues we are concerned about, and allows us to learn from the experience of other states!
 - ACWA is a safe place to learn from other states that are dealing with many of the same issues and just affirms that you are not alone.
 - ACWA is an excellent venue for learning about the application of CWA programs across the country, and a tremendous resource for new staff. Contributing to ACWA makes one feel connected to something bigger.
 - ACWA provides a common voice for states, interstates, and territories in communicating the needs of CWA administrators.
 - ACWA provides a pathway to the connections and information I need.
 - ACWA provides a unified voice representing the states. ACWA leverages the influence of individual states and allows us to be heard and respected at the national level.
 - ACWA serves a valuable role as a conduit for enhanced communication between state and federal partners. Building relationships between colleagues across the country is instrumental in carrying out our duty in environmental protection in a consistent manner.
 - ACWA stays on top of policy and programmatic developments and does a great job of representing and coordinating the variety of state interests/perspectives.
 - CWA provides liaison capabilities between the non-neutral positions of the states and EPA. Helps bridge the gap between the idealism of the CWA that EPA must follow and the realism of its implementation the states must also contend with.
 - The most valuable aspect of ACWA is the ability to network with regulators from other states outside our EPA Region and share ideas and novel approaches. It is good to be able to know how our decisions align or contrast with approaches from our peers.
 - There is no other organization that provides the same services to clean water Administrators that ACWA does.
 - Propinquity