

# 5 YEARS

*EPA WATER REUSE PROGRAM*



# Water Reuse and Recycling

## Water Where You Need it, When You Need it

Water reuse or recycling is treating an alternative supply of water to reuse for a beneficial use.



Treating wastewater and cleaning it to drinking water standards



Treating wastewater for industrial reuse (e.g., data center cooling)



Treating stormwater for use in buildings, reducing flood events



Treating industrial wastewater for mining operations

This is a highly planned process that should account for different risks to public health based on the pathogens in the source water and the intended use.

States set requirements for additional treatment; it is not specifically regulated at the federal level.



# Federal Leadership on Water Reuse



## Update on Federal Water Reuse Interagency Working Group

November 2024

The [Water Reuse Interagency Working Group \(IWG\)](#) is coordinating across the federal government to drive progress on water reuse. Collectively, federal leadership strives to ensure that all communities have access to information and resources that support the safe implementation of reuse as part of a resilient water management strategy.

The [2024 Report to Congress](#) details the first two years of IWG-led activities. Many of the efforts represented are part of the [National Water Reuse Action Plan \(WRAP\)](#), a collaborative with 150+ partner organizations. Recent accomplishments with federal engagement are summarized below with links to learn more about each effort and collaborator involvement.

Each federal agency has unique missions and expertise related to water reuse. As a member of the IWG, agencies may work independently or collaboratively to make progress towards these shared goals:

- Support state regulatory and policy clarity.
- Help improve public perception.
- Fund or provide science and technological research.
- Invest in communities by providing infrastructure financing.
- Provide technical assistance.







# WATER REUSE SUPPORTS ALL 5 PILLARS OF THE "GREAT AMERICAN COMEBACK"



## PILLAR 1

Enable states to  
protect public health  
through tools and  
resources



## PILLAR 2

Evaluate reuse  
opportunities in energy  
sector: oil and gas and  
mining operations



## PILLAR 3

178 WRAP partners,  
Annual State Summits,  
Federal Reuse  
Interagency Workgroup



## PILLAR 4

Ensure water is available  
for semiconductors & data  
centers that power AI



## PILLAR 5

Ensure water is  
available for  
semiconductors and  
car manufacturing



# Collaboration is a key tenet of both the Water Reuse Program and the Water Reuse Action Plan



**74** WRAP action commitments



**190+** resources developed



**181** organizations involved

## NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

Celebrating Five Years of Progress



March 2025

When the EPA released the National Water Reuse Action Plan (WRAP) in February 2020, it marked the beginning of a transformative and collaborative initiative designed to address critical state and water sector needs. Since then, the effort has grown from 37 actions to an impressive 73 action commitments.

One fundamental goal continues to guide the effort: leveraging the convening power and scientific expertise of the EPA, alongside the water sector, to empower states and communities to solve local water challenges. We thank all WRAP collaborators for their considerable contributions and dedication to identifying opportunities for reuse, promoting the latest science to protect public health and creating technical resources that support new projects and initiatives.

“Thank you to our action plan partners across the country for your continued commitment and dedication to advancing water reuse. Our work will help ensure a secure and reliable water supply for the American people.”

— Sharon Nappie, EPA National Program Leader for Water Reuse

### WRAP FIVE-YEAR HIGHLIGHTS

A selection of WRAP accomplishments since 2020:

- ✓ Summarized state and international reuse regulatory approaches in the [REUSE Explorer](#).
- ✓ Highlighted federal funding resources that support resilient local water infrastructure.
- ✓ Connected communities to [technical assistance](#) providers.
- ✓ Supported the workforce with [training resources](#) for water reuse operators and other water professionals.
- ✓ Provided states and utilities with clear and adaptable communications resources in an [online library](#).
- ✓ Supported local governments' onsite reuse initiatives by incorporating the latest science into [codes and standards](#).

See previous [annual updates](#) for more accomplishments.

### WRAP YEAR 5 IMPACTS

The following are example activities from the past year that have helped advance water reuse across five key impact areas.

#### Impact Area 1: Improved State Regulatory and Policy Clarity

- Convened cross-sector participants to identify ways to accelerate onsite reuse at the [Onsite Water Reuse Summit](#). ([Action 2.18](#), led by NBRC for OWS and EPA; [Action 3.4](#), led by NBRC for OWS)
- Reported on key actions that permitting authorities and utilities can take to support innovative permitting approaches, including for water reuse. ([Action 2.19](#), led by Stanford University, EPA and UC Berkeley)
- Published the quarterly “[Potable Reuse Report](#),” which covered critical topics such as regulations and pathogen reduction crediting frameworks. ([Action 2.10](#), led by USACE and the Water Reuse Consortium)
- ★ New action: Identify Opportunities to Support the Mississippi River Basin States in Advancing Water Reuse ([Action 2.20](#), led by the WEF Reuse Committee Mississippi River Basin Focus Group)

**73** WRAP action commitments  
**190+** resources developed  
**178** organizations involved



Presenters at the 2024 Onsite Water Reuse Summit. Photo courtesy of ERG.



# ***NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN***

***CELEBRATING 5 YEARS OF INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR A RELIABLE WATER SUPPLY***



***Improved State  
Regulatory Clarity***



***Provided Technical  
Support and  
Information***



***Highlighted  
Infrastructure  
Investments***



***Improved Public  
Perception***



***Advanced Scientific  
and Technological  
Research***

## ANNUAL STATE SUMMIT ON WATER REUSE



Pillar 1



Pillar 2



PILLAR 3



Pillar 4



Pillar 5

## CREATED REUSEXPLORER TOOL SUMMARIZING >185 STATE REUSE POLICIES



Supported states as they develop  
reuse regulations and guidelines





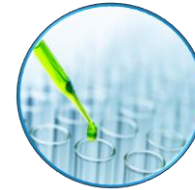
# Provided technical support and information to advance implementation: Onsite Reuse



National Blue Ribbon Commission  
for Onsite Water Systems



BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE  
LOCALLY FOR DECENTRALIZED  
WATER SYSTEMS



Public Health



Capacity  
Building



Technology  
Innovation



Communication

- EPA published a series of technical support materials to help states quickly permit innovative water reuse projects
  - **All plumbing codes organizations** are updating their codes to include a risk-based approach.
- EPA hosted a summit on onsite water reuse in DC which led to a new group called BILD.
- BILD expands the network of NBRC from utilities and regulators to the broader onsite community
  - Sector is providing feedback on needs and priorities for onsite reuse in 4 key impact areas.







# Invested in communities' infrastructure for a water secure future

**WIFIA**  
PROGRAM  
A U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Program

**PROVIDED RECYCLED WATER  
TO 9.5 MILLION AMERICANS**



BUREAU OF  
RECLAMATION



**FEMA**

More than **\$7.8 Billion** has been made available for federal investments in reuse infrastructure since 2020



Pillar 1



PILLAR 3





# Helped improve public perception of water reuse

Worked with CDC and medical community to improve public perception



- Helped create CDC website on reuse
- Infographics with CDC and EPA
- Partnered with medical association for association articles
- Repository of comms materials hosted by WaterReuse Association







# Thank you!

To connect or provide input please contact:



Sharon Nappier ([nappier.sharon@epa.gov](mailto:nappier.sharon@epa.gov))  
*National Program Leader For Water Reuse*



Ashley Harper ([harper.ashley@epa.gov](mailto:harper.ashley@epa.gov))  
*Water Reuse Program*



**Sign up for our monthly updates!**

[waterreuse@epa.gov](mailto:waterreuse@epa.gov)

QR Code for Newsletter

