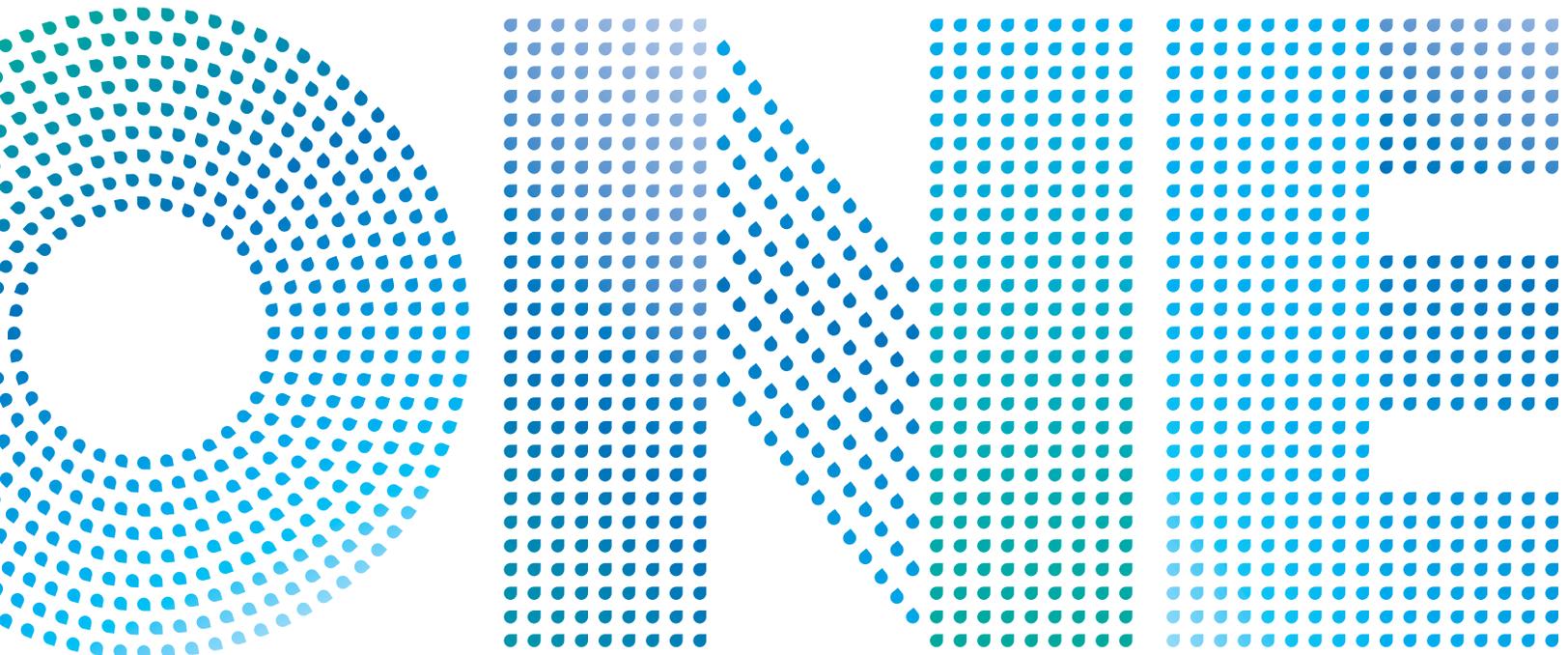


From the Heart of Texas to Home: One Water Commitments to Action



One
Water
Summit
2019

One Water, One Future.



Collaboration—it's what drives the One Water movement, and everything that we do at the US Water Alliance. The board and staff at the US Water Alliance were honored to welcome 44 One Water Delegations to One Water Summit 2019.

Collectively, the Delegations are an impressive and diverse group of dedicated leaders representing regions and communities across the country. During the closing plenary, 27 Delegates made a commitment to action to advance One Water in the coming year. Many of the commitments made this year center on building an equitable water future and supporting One Water policies and practices at the state level.

In the coming year, the US Water Alliance will support Delegations in their commitments to action by facilitating dialogue, fostering partnerships, showcasing progress, and communicating results. The Alliance looks forward to continued engagement with these Delegations and to celebrating what is accomplished during One Water Summit 2021 in Milwaukee, WI.

Austin Regional Delegation

Commitment to Action: Implement Austin's 100-year integrated water resource plan

Austin's 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan, Water Forward, was adopted in late 2018. The plan will ensure a diversified, sustainable, and resilient water future for Austin and seeks to create adaptive solutions to the challenges posed by growth, drought, and future climate uncertainty. Water Forward continues our community's strong emphasis on water conservation and efficiency, but also includes strategies to shift non-potable demands to be met by alternative non-potable supplies, such as reclaimed wastewater effluent, on-site reuse, rainwater harvesting and water supply options such as aquifer storage and recovery.

As we move into the implementation phase, Austin Water is partnering with the City's Watershed Protection Department, the Water Forward Implementation Task Force (a City Council-appointed citizen group) and many other city departments and members of the community to evaluate and implement innovative, multi-benefit strategies to secure our water future. This includes ordinance development for scaling onsite water resources, expert consultation on our new aquifer storage and recovery program, outreach and community engagement on the challenges and opportunities created by this new way of managing water, with a focus on protecting affordability. We will also engage the City's arts and culture sector to help share each aspect of Water Forward.

The One Water Summit has provided momentum to the many ways that members of the Austin Regional Delegation are working together to implement Water Forward and to advance One Water within and beyond our city's borders. We are committed to continue working collectively to deepen Austin's cultural appreciation of our precious water resources.

Atlanta Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Implement workforce development and water service affordability programs

As a city with a Water Equity Taskforce, equity is at the center of our commitment. We will strive to complete and launch our Water Equity Roadmap. We will then explore and finalize a structure to see us through the implementation of the actions that will be laid out. We will learn from our Workforce Development Pilot, which we will launch via our Environmental Impact Bond, and we want to translate what we learn from that process into a broad scope of work by implementing it as a part of our capital improvement program. We will strive to increase affordability of water service, and in doing so will assess current programs for gaps and areas of success. Finally, we will deepen our practice of seeking authentic community engagement wherein communication is seen as a two-way process.

Buffalo Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Increase enrollment in Buffalo Sewer Authority's rate assistance program

We have completed our Water Equity Roadmap and look forward to an inclusive education, outreach, and engagement package that is necessary to get people signed up for our affordability program. We commit to registering at least 10 percent of those who are vulnerable and are eligible for the program.

Camden Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Build trust and community ownership

We have completed our Water Equity Roadmap and begun engaging the community on water access issues this year. As we move forward, we commit to build trust between communities and the water sector and ensure that residents are involved in every water management process. We will continue to work on equitable workforce development, climate resilience, and water quality awareness.

Cleveland Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Launch a Water Champions outreach and education program

For the past two years Cleveland has been a part of the Water Equity Taskforce initiative, and as part of their work with the Taskforce, the Cleveland Delegation commits to launching a Water Champions Program in 2020 which will be a community outreach and education initiative. It will hire residents from four neighborhoods in Cleveland that have been affected by historic environmental and economic injustices. These individuals will receive training as liaisons, with the goal of deepening the connections between their communities and utilities.

The Conservation Fund Delegation

Commitment to Action: Provide funds for community-based water infrastructure projects

For 2020, the Fund commits to the following goals: (1) Provide at least \$10 million in bridge capital and offer technical assistance to watershed organizations, community groups, local governments or similar partners for water protection projects across the country; (2) Secure or provide at least \$3 million from a combination of sources for community-based green infrastructure projects to reduce local flooding, improve water quality and provide other community benefits, and \$20 million for source water forestry protection projects; (3) Assist one major municipal partner in developing a green resilience bond to generate capital for climate resilient water infrastructure; and (4) Assist at least 10 American cities develop effective community-based engagement processes for local or regional water management projects.

Detroit Water and Sewerage Department

Commitment to Action: Serve as a more compassionate, equity-focused utility service provider

We commit to using water affordability and workforce development initiatives to address endemic poverty, build equity, and engage community. We will expand and enhance customer assistance delivery through the Great Lakes Water Authority funded water residential assistance program. We will join the City of Detroit Health Department to pilot delivery of a comprehensive assistance addressing housing, energy, food, and medical needs, as well as water access issues, to a sample set of Detroit's most economically disadvantaged households. DWSD will co-fund a City of Detroit Office of Sustainability pilot program to deliver water conservation assistance to eligible low-income households.

DWSD will fund full lead service line replacement and lead-risk public education and will partner with the Health Department to fund and coordinate water filter distribution. We will develop staff resources to institutionalize our commitment to minimizing lead in water risk—which is a \$40 million a year project—and to work with local community groups to address water access and affordability challenges. Our staff will partner with local nonprofits to host over 100 outreach events annually. DWSD will expand its hiring of returned citizens and we have a \$500 million capital improvement plan that we'll implement over the next four years and 51 percent of the hours worked will go to Detroiters. Our recent customer service pledge, collaboratively developed with advocacy group input, represents one step on DWSD's path to serve as a more compassionate, equity-focused utility service provider.

Freese and Nichols Delegation

Commitment to Action: Educate state policymakers and utility partners about the One Water approach

The Freese and Nichols Delegation commits to promoting low-impact development and apply the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure's (ISI) Envision criteria and performance objectives. The following will be accomplished before the next Summit: assist one utility in earning the Envision rating, encourage four delegation leaders to earn ISI's Environmental Sustainability Program certification, and teach 20 college students how to apply the Envision rating program to their senior design projects.

We will advocate for incorporation of One Water principles into regional water plans and the State Flood Plan process of Texas. By the next Summit, these groups will have submitted plans to Texas, which contain the largest proportion of alternative water supply strategies since the legislature established the bottom-up regional planning approach in 1997.

Finally, we will promote the One Water approach to the hundreds of utilities with which Freese and Nichols partners. Between now and the next Summit, our delegation commits to: facilitate four workshops focusing on One Water and sustainability, expand water reuse in Texas, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma and Louisiana by 1 million gallons per day, grow its groundwater practice to successfully implement one new desalination project and one new ASR project, design the restoration of 5,000 linear feet of waterway, and continue to engage communities in the development of resiliency plans.

International Union of Painters and Allied Trades Delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop lifelong career paths and a certified workforce

The International Union of Painters and Allied Trades is committed to building and maintaining quality, world class water infrastructure systems. We will continue to develop a certified workforce and contractor base; create lifelong career paths while protecting the environment; and ensure that the general public's tax dollars are being properly spent. We are committed to taking the necessary steps to maintain the integrity of these infrastructure systems and welcome any and all who wish to join us in these endeavors.

Iowa Delegation

Commitment to Action: Scale up conservation practices in collaboration with cross-sector partners

This is the fifth year of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Last year the Iowa Delegation committed to work towards healthier watershed measured by increased practices on the landscape. Our Conservation Infrastructure Plan laid out 45 different infrastructure projects for the state of Iowa and we've undertaken 17 so far.

The Iowa Delegation commits to scaling up conservation practices on Iowa's landscape to improve water management within the state and downstream. Working at the watershed scale, we will bring all willing partners together—urban and rural, public and private, government and NGO—for the common goal of improving water quality while building more resilient landscapes. Partnership focused projects in priority watersheds will focus on securing funding to increase urban and rural conservation practices with an emphasis on generating measurable outcomes.

Louisville Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Remove the barriers to water workforce opportunities

Through the Water Equity Taskforce initiative, Louisville released a Water Equity Roadmap which included an aggressive action plan for removing the barriers to water workforce opportunities for historically disadvantaged communities. The Louisville Delegation commits to moving forward on the implementation of their action plan, which will include Louisville Metropolitan Sewerage District's landmark community benefits program, cross-sector workforce partnerships, and procurement policy reform that will expand opportunities for local, disadvantaged, and minority-owned businesses.

Milwaukee Water Equity Delegation

Commitment to Action: Address the barriers to workforce development in the water industry

A major component of our Delegation's work is building trust and partnerships, and this will be critical to finishing and our implementing our Water Equity Roadmap. The focus of our Roadmap is addressing the barriers to workforce development in the water industry. To that end, we are completing a detailed Needs Assessment to characterize the Milwaukee area water market and assess community concerns. From this work, we will develop specific recommendations for action going forward.

National Institutes for Water Resources Delegation

Commitment to Action: Conduct research as a catalyst for a One Water Future

The National Institutes for Water Resources (NIWR) play an important role in addressing water resource concerns in their state. They convene stakeholders to identify water resource concerns, plan for research to address those issues, disseminate the results of that research to end users and within the research community, and train the next generation of water scientists by supporting students and early career faculty. Our Delegation commits to increasing the diversity of the stakeholders we engage and the researchers we support, and we commit to breaking down silos by funding multidisciplinary research that improves the health of watershed systems.

National Recreation and Park Association Delegation

Commitment to Action: Elevate and expand the role of parks in integrated water management

Through the Great Urban Parks Campaign, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) Delegation commits to improving environmental quality, health improvements, and social equity outcomes in communities by promoting and advancing green infrastructure stormwater management projects within parks. The Great Urban Parks campaign specifically highlights the multiple benefits green stormwater management projects can bring to underserved communities including improved community health, access to green space and nature, opportunities for education, workforce development, and increased social and environmental resiliency.

In the next year, NRPA commits to expanding this work by stimulating new park green stormwater management projects in parks, continuing to partner with the Water Environment Federation in delivering the second round of National Green Infrastructure Certification Program training and certification for park and recreation employees, and developing a policy resource and communications toolkit on green stormwater projects in parks and on public lands.

NRPA will promote use of the recently completed Green Infrastructure Evaluation Framework by park and water utility agencies with a special focus on measuring the social equity and health benefits of park-based green stormwater management projects, as well as develop a resource guide for water utilities and park agencies based on four GI pilot projects in parks in Atlanta, Baltimore, Pittsburgh, and Denver. In addition, NRPA is committed to elevating and promoting successful models of park and water utility partnerships over the next year.

NRPA plans to facilitate peer exchange and learning among water utility and park leaders, and to provide education on best practices in forming and maintaining collaboration to achieve stormwater management goals.

North Carolina Research Triangle Delegation **Commitment to Action: Collaborate with state officials on policies that advance integrated water management**

As a Delegation, we've strengthened relationships between stakeholders and state regulatory agencies and developed a holistic approach to integrated water management. This year, 12 of our 28 Delegates are from state regulatory agencies. We've also developed a conservation plan for the Cape Fear River Basin and create a new Jordan Lake One Water Association. And finally, we've collaborated with state official to consider a legal process for an alternative One Water approach under the nutrient management rules in North Carolina.

Looking to this coming year, the North Carolina Delegation commits to working collaboratively on One Water across jurisdictional, political, and organizational lines, and to support actionable advances as a region. The Delegation will strive to: (1) work through the Jordan Lake One Water (JLOW) group to convene stakeholders and collaborate with state officials to develop a legal process for alternative One Water approaches under the state nutrient management rules by December 2020; (2) bring One Water considerations to the newly established Triangle Area

Water Supply Partnership; (3) support Wake County Water Partnership's One Water initiatives; and (4) assist local governments in identifying and removing barriers to green infrastructure projects.

Pittsburgh Water Equity Delegation **Commitment to Action: Develop a Water Equity Roadmap that promotes water democracy**

It is our goal to publish our Water Equity Roadmap by the end of year, reflecting our commitments. We commit to implementing equitable workforce development and procurement reform. We plan to implement a stormwater fee by 2021, invest in urban parks with green infrastructure, increase enrollment in our bill discount program by providing stipends to community-based organizations, create a marketing campaign, and throughout these efforts, we are committed to promoting water democracy, public control, and citizen input.

San Antonio Regional Delegation **Commitment to Action: Advance water equity and sustainable landscape transformation**

Using the One Water approach as an organizing principle, the San Antonio Delegation continues its commitment of engaging citizens, community organizations, local agencies, and utilities to develop programs, policies, and principles that promote diverse, resilient landscapes brimming with equitable co-benefits. Our Delegation aims to strengthen partnerships and engage new stakeholders to achieve this.

Seattle Regional Delegation **Commitment to Action: Create One Water solutions through diverse partnerships**

The Seattle Regional Delegation commits to generating a solutions toolbox that recognizes the need for a regional scale distribution system to withstand acute shock from extreme events. We also commit to centering equity because our region is experiencing exponential growth which leads to a high cost of living. We set equity at the core of our work, so our communities can thrive in place. Finally, we commit to cultivating strong partnerships with philanthropy, businesses, communities, and environmental organizations, because we know we cannot do this work alone.

Texas Hill Country Delegation

Commitment to Action: Increase One Water practices in the Hill Country

The Texas Hill Country Delegation pledges to build collaboration among the large cities along the I-35 corridor to help the Hill Country, hold information workshops that foster peer-dialogue, create and distribute educational materials so that those outside the sector can understand the need and benefit of One Water practices, and advocate for green infrastructure in the new Texas state flood plan.

Texas Living Waters Project Delegation

Commitment to Action: Advance One Water throughout the Lone Star State

In the coming year, we will advance One Water in Texas, while also improving the One Water paradigm by helping to give meaning and rigor to this national movement's commitment to environment co-benefits. To establish a strong Texas example and to catalyze change, we will support the sound implementation of One Water in Austin and encourage adoption elsewhere in Texas, particularly in the Central Texas Hill Country. To ensure that One Water lives up to its promise as an environmentally responsible way to meet water demands, we will identify and promote strategies and standards needed to secure essential freshwater flows for rivers and bays. We will also operationalize the One Water commitment to equity and fairness, ensuring every community has access to clean, affordable water.

Tucson Regional Delegation

Commitment to Action: Promote a high quality of life for Tucsonans through One Water planning

Last year, we promised to return perennial water flow to the Santa Cruz River for the first time in over 70 years and we accomplished that in June of this year. A change in state law was required to maximize recharge credits and delegation partners played a pivotal role in moving state law toward a One Water framework. We also committed to launching our next long-range water plan "One Water 2100." and the building blocks are in place for the public and stakeholder engagement processes that will ensure a collaborative and open process. The four key areas in our One Water 2100 plan are: infrastructure, water quality, climate action, and quality of life.

This year, we commit to evolving our customer assistance program to a CARE program, moving beyond just providing low-income assistance to also providing emergency relief for our customers. We are working to establish a green stormwater infrastructure fund for the city of Tucson that will enhance green infrastructure in our city's public spaces.

Urban Waters Delegation

Commitment to Action: Break down silos between organizations, agencies, and sectors

Urban Waters Delegates are partnering with water utilities and local and state officials in the 19 Urban Waters Federal Partnership Locations, providing support for community organizations who are working to foster productive working relationships with their local utilities as well as local and state officials, and breaking down barriers in communication and collaboration. Delegates are also exploring innovative partnerships and incorporating the US Water Alliance Pillars of Water Equity into our existing environmental justice work at the community, local, state, and federal levels.

The Urban Waters Delegation commits to continue its work to create a more equitable, dependable water management culture that secures economic, environmental and community well-being for all. This work includes building partnerships among diverse stakeholders, bringing community-based organizations together with federal, state, municipal, and regional agencies, and breaking down silos within and beyond our own organizations.

Urban Water Funders Delegation

Commitment to Action: Expand philanthropic support for One Water

The Urban Water Funders is committed to growing philanthropic support for and engagement in One Water approaches. In addition, the Urban Water Funders and the Funders' Network will continue to grow targeted funding for green stormwater infrastructure and water sustainability in the Partners for Places grant program.

Water Access Gap Delegation

Commitment to Action: Move the needle forward towards universal access to water and sanitation for every American

We commit to serving the millions of Americans who don't have access to running water or basic plumbing by releasing the first national study on this issue in partnership with the US Water Alliance. We will publish a four-part action plan so that each of the 32 organizations represented in our Delegation can make their own individual commitments to action.

Water Equity and Climate Resilience Caucus Delegation

Commitment to Action: Support authentic engagement through storytelling and arts and culture pathways

We commit to creating a storytelling toolkit that will increase community participation and attract favorable attention from policy makers for equitable climate resilience. We will also create a mini-grant process for Caucus members seeking support to advance advocacy efforts for water, equity, and climate through Arts and Culture pathways. We're will brainstorm strategies for how to make our framing paper resonate with on the ground advocates in a truthful and authentic way. And we're going to do art—writing songs, writing poetry, creating murals—in service of water equity.

The Water Foundation

Commitment to Action: Build capacity for effective and equitable state drinking water policy

The Water Foundation commits to working in collaboration with the US Water Alliance, with the support of the Mott Foundation, to convene four regional roundtables to solicit relevant concepts that will contribute towards the development of a national policy framework to advance safe and affordable drinking water. The roundtables will take place on the Pacific Coast, in the Southwest, the Southeast, and the Great Lakes Region. The objectives of roundtables are to: (1) develop a deeper shared understanding of the broad range of drinking water threats facing communities, as well as the root causes and impacts of these threats; (2) identify and amplify innovative state policy solutions being advanced in key regions across America, (3) uplift the important role of diverse stakeholders—frontline community organizations, environmental groups, public health representatives, water utilities, and others—in driving winning solutions; and (4) identify opportunities for philanthropy to accelerate safe drinking water successes by investing in the organizations and strategies that build the capacity for effective and equitable state action.

Water Funder Initiative Delegation

Commitment to Action: Raise significant funds for transformative water solutions that support a One Water future

The Water Funder Initiative commits to raising \$150 million for transformative water-related solutions by 2021, as part of a Water Campaign aimed at leveraging multiples of that funding from other private and public partners. Funding for Water Campaign Initiatives will support advances in water data, technology, communications, and other strategies that support One Water.

One Water, One Future.

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