



Commitments to Action from the One Water Delegations

One
Water,
One
Future.



One
Water
Summit
2018

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 51 delegations to One Water Summit 2018. The delegates are an impressive and diverse group of dedicated leaders representing regions and constituents from across the country.

During the closing plenary, 31 delegations made a commitment to action to advance One Water in the coming year. Commitments can be small or large and financial or nonmonetary in nature. Many of the commitments made this year center on cross-sector partnerships, with One Water delegates joining forces to expand their impact. In the coming year, the US Water Alliance will support delegations in their commitments to action by facilitating dialogue, providing opportunities to identify partners, showcasing the actions taken by commitment-makers, and communicating results.

The Alliance looks forward to engaging with these delegations over the course of the next year and reconvening to celebrate progress made at One Water Summit 2019 in Austin, Texas.

American Planning Association delegation

Commitment to Action: Advance planning methods and policies that support One Water

The American Planning Association delegation commits to build connections between planners and water resource professionals. The goal is to promote a deeper understanding among planners about water science, engineering, and the ways in which the built environment impacts the health and integrity of the water environment. The APA's Water and Planning Connect September 2018 conference will help inform the delegations advancement of planning methods and policies that support the One Water approach. Additionally, it will provide guidance to the APA's research and policy priorities in the areas of drought mitigation, climate adaptation, and green infrastructure through 2019.

American Rivers delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop a multi-partner initiative that develops economic solutions that support natural and equitable water management programs

The American Rivers delegation commits to advance an initiative that develops economic solutions to support natural and equitable water management programs. This will be done in partnership with Corona Environmental Consulting and the Water Environment Federation with funding from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. They will continue to work with municipal partners—Grand Rapids, MI and the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District—to design programs that increase private sector investment in stormwater infrastructure to benefit both the public and the environment. The American Rivers delegation will complete their analysis and program design in these municipalities and will launch the first pilot project of their economic solutions initiative.

Atlanta delegation

Commitment to Action: Advance water equity through maximizing the community and economic benefits of infrastructure investments

The Atlanta delegation commits to maximize the community and economic benefits of infrastructure investments and will continue to participate in the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce. They will work together to find solutions to displacement and create living-wage jobs in the neighborhoods surrounding projects being undertaken by the Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation and the Atlanta Department of Watershed Management. Elevating these needs at this time is critical as Atlanta is planning for and completing a number of large-scale green infrastructure projects. These projects include the Rodney Cook Sr. Park, with a 9-million-gallon retention pond and related green infrastructure practices, to alleviate flooding and combined sewer overflows, and the Westside Quarry Park, a 2.4-billion-gallon reservoir providing 30 days of water supply with plans for the surrounding 300+ acres to become Atlanta's largest park.

Austin delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop the strategic vision for water in Austin for the next 100-years

Austin Water is leading the development of Water Forward, a 100-year Integrated Water Resource Plan for Austin, with the goal of ensuring a diversified, sustainable, and resilient water future. Water Forward seeks to create adaptive solutions to the challenges posed by growth, drought, and future climate uncertainty. The plan includes strategies to shift non-potable water demands to be met by alternative non-potable water supplies. Austin Water is partnering with others in the City, including the City's Watershed Protection Department and the Water Forward Taskforce (a city council appointed citizen group), to evaluate and implement innovative, multi-beneficial strategies to secure their water future. They will take this plan to citizen-led commissions and the city council for approval in the fall of 2018 and then move directly into developing an implementation plan.

Buffalo delegation

Commitment to Action: Advance an affordable water future

The City of Buffalo is known as "The City of Good Neighbors." In living up to this reputation, the Buffalo delegation is committed to focus on the advancement of an affordable water future for all residents. They will continue to work with the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce to advance this goal.

Camden delegation

Commitment to Action: Eliminate flooding, increase lead awareness, expand water workforce programs, and build the framework for climate adaptation in Camden

The Camden delegation is committed to bring together a growing number of engaged stakeholders to work towards the elimination of flooding, increase lead awareness, expand water workforce programs, and to build the framework for climate adaptation in Camden. The delegation will adopt the approach of "leading with listening." They will continue to work with the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce to advance these goals.

Cleveland delegation

Commitment to Action: Drive water equity, accelerate water innovation, keep the Great Lake Great, and advance Smart Water and One Water

The Cleveland delegation is committed to four goals: 1) drive water equity by working with at-risk communities across the region to ensure that water resources benefit and empower all people, giving special focus to affordability, water quality, and climate resilience; 2) accelerate water innovation by working with the industrial and entrepreneurial communities to keep Lake Erie at the cutting edge of water technology; 3) keep the Great Lake Great by working with utilities, government entities, and watershed groups to maintain high-quality water ecosystems; and, 4) learn how the grassroots activation surrounding harmful algal blooms in Lake Erie is inspiring the "Smart Lake," a new breed of smart and connected infrastructure that enables intelligent community water management across the diversity of One Water stakeholders. They will continue to work with the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce to advance these goals.

Culture of Health Delegation

Commitment to Action: Elevate the role of water in building a Culture of Health

The Culture of Health delegation commits to: 1) encourage partnership and collaboration between the water and health sectors; 2) think broadly about how access to clean safe drinking water enables us to build a Culture of Health; and, 3) recognize the value of water in improving population health, well-being, and equity for the nation.

Great Lakes Commission delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop a framework for best practices for integrated water infrastructure asset management

The Great Lakes Commission delegation will implement one of the 17 recommendations from the Action Plan for Clean Water Infrastructure and Services in the Great Lakes Region. They will work with regional stakeholders to develop a framework for best practices for integrated water infrastructure asset management—including drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater—for use by states and provinces in the Great Lakes Region.

Great Lakes Community Partners delegation

Commitment to Action: Deepen regional partnerships and take action through One Water

The Great Lakes Community Partners delegation will move forward action items developed the previous year to advance water affordability, access, education, and green infrastructure. They are committed to protect Mother Earth and to address ecological devastation, and they call for the intentional inclusion of the expertise of indigenous people. They will build relationships with tribes from around the Great Lakes that respect cultural practices and enlist contributions from the indigenous community to benefit from their expertise and leadership to find the way back to order and balance.

Green Lands Blue Waters delegation

Commitment to Action: Reduce nutrient leaching in the Upper Mississippi River Basin

The Green Lands Blue Waters delegation commits to highlight and share the experience of existing source water protection projects using perennials in Minnesota to encourage additional projects in the Upper Midwest. Over the next two years, they will host two educational outreach sessions in the region and aim to assist partners in implementing at least two new projects in Iowa, Illinois, or Wisconsin. With continuous living cover (CLC) farming systems, agriculture can play a leadership role in fixing the problem of agricultural nitrate contamination of ground-water supplies. These source water projects offer exceptional opportunities to target CLC crops to the landscape, effectively track environmental performance of the crops, and bring unique new stakeholders together.

Hawaii delegation

Commitment to Action: Expand water reuse through identifying and addressing local barriers

The Hawaii delegation is committed to increasing water security throughout the islands with water reuse, recharge, and conservation. They will create a Water Reuse Taskforce that will vet localized barriers to water reuse and potential solutions to scale up water reuse with an eye to establish policy objectives for 2019. This work supports the Fresh Water Initiative, a statewide long-term collaborative effort to strengthen water security, with a goal to increase the amount of water that is reused in Hawaii by 30mgd by 2030. This includes recycled water and reusing graywater and stormwater.

Iowa delegation

Commitment to Action: Scale-up their well-tested conservation-infrastructure action plan

The Iowa delegation commits to work toward healthier watersheds measured by conservation practices on the ground. They are celebrating the fifth year of their science-based Nutrient Reduction Strategy, and, after several years of pilot projects, they are committed to scale-up their conservation-infrastructure action plan. They will work to bring public and private partners together. Additionally, they will help plan the North Central Region One Water Summit that will take place in Indianapolis, Indiana in December 2018.

Labor and Emerald Cities delegation

Commitment to Action: To collaborate with other US Water Alliance members to create an equitable water future

The Labor and Emerald Cities delegation is committed to a One Water future and will collaborate with other members of the US Water Alliance to support work toward an equitable water future with an emphasis on rebuilding America's infrastructure with a commitment to public health, as well as high-road construction, labor, and community standards. They will continue to participate in the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce, through the Cleveland learning team, and to connect low-income people and communities of color to careers and contracting opportunities in the water sector. Additionally, they commit to increase the number of labor unions engaged in the US Water Alliance network.

Los Angeles delegation

Commitment to Action: Turn their One Water Plan into action and practice

The Los Angeles delegation is committed to use the One Water approach to turn the challenges of unpredictable climate and stringent regulations into opportunities. They will move their One Water Plan into action by implementing policies to streamline collaboration, engage with LA County on a regional funding measure for stormwater and urban runoff projects, enhance the ranking criteria of the Capital Improvement Program in order to prioritize infrastructure projects in disadvantaged communities, and move forward with projects to more than double their recycled water use. With regional partners, they will increase local water supply, improve water quality and quality of life for Angelenos, all through the lens of sustainability, resiliency, and equity.

Louisville delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop a roadmap for workforce development

The Louisville delegation will work with the US Water Alliance as part of the Water Equity Taskforce to develop a roadmap to implement workforce development. They will partner with diverse stakeholders to extend opportunities across their community.

Milwaukee delegation

Commitment to Action: Identify workplace culture and highlight inclusive career pathways

The Milwaukee delegation commits to fostering equitable pathways to employment and building cultural competence in the Milwaukee water workforce. They will continue to work with the US Water Alliance's Water Equity Taskforce to create a future of water equity for all Milwaukee communities.

Multiple Benefits of Water Investments delegation

Commitment to Action: Develop a framework for evaluating multiple benefits of water investment strategies

The Multiple Benefits of Water Investments delegation will work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a framework and supporting methodology for consistently evaluating multiple benefits of water investments. They will work with their advisory group, municipalities, community groups, utilities, NGOs, and leading businesses to develop three test cases to implement and improve the framework. They will develop and maintain an online toolbox to provide guidance and resources for developing effective multi-purpose and multi-benefit projects.

National Recreation and Park Association delegation

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

Through their Great Urban Parks Campaign, the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) delegation commits to continue improving environmental and social outcomes in communities by promoting and advancing green stormwater infrastructure projects within parks. The 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 and employment, and increased resiliency. In the next year, NRPA commits to expand this work and invest \$2 million in new park green stormwater management projects; to partner with the Water Environment Federation to adapt and deliver the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program to park and recreation employees; and to create an evaluation framework that encourages the measurement of the social and community benefits of park-based green stormwater management projects. 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 to their members on best practices in forming and maintaining collaboration to achieve stormwater management goals.

National Network on Water Quality Trading delegation

Commitment to Action: Break down barriers to advance water quality trading markets

The National Network on Water Quality Trading delegation will propose and implement a comprehensive action agenda that will help get water quality trading off the sidelines and on the ground in more watersheds. To bolster this work, they will work alongside US EPA staff to draft a policy statement reflecting the current administration's position on water quality trading. This will give regulatory assurance to states and utilities who want to pursue trading.

Native Leaders delegation

Commitment to Action: Increase the spiritual acknowledgment of water and strengthen Native leadership

The Native Leaders delegation will work to ensure that acknowledging the spirit of the water is at the center of deliberations regarding water. They will encourage western science to acknowledge this spirit and to move away from the framework of water as a commodity. They will continue to raise awareness of the threats that Native people face as they work to protect Mother Earth.

New Jersey delegation

Commitment to Action: Continue building public and political will for improved and accessible water infrastructure and management

The New Jersey delegation will continue to meet after One Water Summit 2018 in order to identify at least four actions that it can take to build public and political will for better water infrastructure and water management that gives equitable access to water services, recreation, and workforce opportunities. They will share these actions with the full Jersey Water Works membership and propose that the collaborative's 2019 work plan incorporates inclusion.

North Carolina delegation

Commitment to Action: Strengthen relationships between stakeholders and state regulatory agencies to develop a holistic approach to integrated water management

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 work to: 1) develop a conservation plan for the Upper Cape Fear River Basin with the new Jordan Lake One Water Association; 2) bring One Water considerations to the emerging Triangle Area Water Partnership; 3) support Wake County Water Partnership's One Water initiatives; 4) assist local governments in identifying and removing barriers to green infrastructure projects; and, 5) collaborate with state officials to consider a legal process for alternative One Water approaches under the nutrient management rules.

North Minneapolis Environmental Justice Coordinating Council delegation

Commitment to Action: Support the community-led integral water future in North Minneapolis

The North Minneapolis Environmental Justice Coordinating Council delegation commits to be the catalyst and convener for the development of a comprehensive plan for ecologically sound development throughout North Minneapolis. A major development opportunity—the 48-acre Upper Harbor Terminal Development—has emerged as an opportunity to create a demonstration eco-village that provides affordable green housing for 200 families, creates an international arts, ecology and cultural destination on the Mississippi River, has its own solar farm that powers the village, and provides a job complex of 200 or more green jobs. The site and community are creating an example of an equitable, integral water future.

San Francisco Bay Area delegation

Commitment to Action: Implement two new OneWaterSF initiatives

The San Francisco Bay Area delegation commits to launch two new initiatives that will advance One Water. The first initiative will be OneWaterSF Fit-for-Purpose Water, with the goal of matching the right water resource to the right use by advancing new technologies and approaches for potable and non-potable reuse in San Francisco. The second initiative will be the OneWaterSF Learning Lab, a partnership between the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and the San Francisco Zoo, to implement a public demonstration of resource recovery and sustainable farming practices.

Texas Hill Country delegation

Commitment to Action: Demonstrate the economic and resource benefits of One Water management strategies to smaller scale utilities

The Texas Hill Country delegation pledges to leverage the good work of their Eastern friends in San Antonio, New Braunfels, and Austin to produce a workshop that demonstrates the economic benefits of One Water management strategies. They will encourage smaller utilities to incorporate One Water as they seek mechanisms to grow their water and wastewater capacities to accommodate future population growth. In municipalities that have already embraced One Water, the delegation will help them advance their practices.

The Conservation Fund delegation

Commitment to Action: Accelerate One Water solutions for cities with technical and financial assistance and advance community engagement

The Conservation Fund delegation commits to: 1) provide at least \$20 million in bridge capital and offer related technical assistance to watershed organizations, community groups, local governments or similar partners for water protection projects across the country; 2) secure at least \$7 million from a combination of sources to apply to community-based green infrastructure projects to reduce local flooding, improve water quality, and provide other community benefits; 3) assist one major municipal partner in developing, issuing, and marketing a green resilience bond to generate capital for climate resilient water infrastructure; and, 4) assist at least six US metro areas develop effective outreach and engagement processes for neighborhood- and community-based involvement.

Tucson delegation

Commitment to Action: Launch a long-range planning process for One Water 2100, improve the health of the Santa Cruz River, and champion One Water solutions at the state policy level

Tucson delegation commitments range in geographic scale from local to statewide. Commitments include: 1) Tucson Water will launch a long-range planning process for its service area known as One Water 2100; 2) continue a watershed-scale planning effort for the Santa Cruz River that equally values all water resources and explores priority riparian restoration opportunities; and, 3) champion two One Water policies with Arizona's state water agencies to better align policy and practice. The first is to make a change in state law that increases the accrual of stored water from 50% to 95% credit for managed recharge projects. The second is to further propose policy changes to allow for direct potable reuse and to expand onsite water use.

University of Minnesota delegation

Commitment to Action: Incorporate the One Water framework into the University of Minnesota Water Council's inventory of water-related research and activities and communicate their progress

The University of Minnesota (UMN) delegation commits to incorporate the One Water Framework into its inventory of water-related research and activities to form the conceptual basis and guide the organization of the inventory report. This will provide a common framework and language for making connections across categories of water research and facilitate the discussion of dimensions of water value and equity, where it might not otherwise be explicitly described. Additionally, they commit to communicate these activities with the external community to increased awareness and coordination between academia and those managing water resources nationwide. UMN will publicly share progress on its One Water integration of research, through events such as the Minnesota Water Resources Conference, which gathers over 700 water resources professionals and researchers each year.

Urban Waters delegation

Commitment to Action: Facilitate utility-NGO partnerships for equitable water management in cities

The Urban Water delegation commits to: 1) expand outreach of EPA Urban Waters and the Urban Waters Learning Network by partnering with water utilities and local and state officials in the 19 Partnership Locations; 2) develop and provide support for community organizations who are working to foster productive working relationships with their local utilities as well as local and state officials; and, 3) develop concrete steps for the incorporation and application of US Water Alliance's Pillars of Water Equity into their existing environmental justice work at the community, local, state, and federal levels.

WaterNow Alliance delegation

Commitment to Action: Accelerate large-scale investment in distributed infrastructure

The WaterNow Alliance delegation commits to significantly raise the profile of distributed water infrastructure—turf change outs, rain gardens, permeable pavement, efficient appliances—with water decision-makers at local, state, and federal levels and in the water industry generally, to shift perceptions about the ability to invest in these options at large-scale to serve the same functions as conventional water infrastructure. They will do this by: 1) launching a major outreach and education campaign about the new opportunity to capitalize spending on distributed systems and programs; 2) preparing a virtual toolkit to guide and support utility leaders, management, and staff in taking this path; and, 3) developing at least three pilot projects demonstrating the feasibility and benefits of large-scale investment in distributed infrastructure.

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