



Water Finance Forum - "Financing Resilient and Sustainable Water Infrastructure"

December 2, 2015 | Iselin, NJ | Last Updated: November 12, 2015

Agenda

8:30-9:00am

Registration

Session 1

9:00-9:30am

Welcome and Introduction

Welcome from Region 2 and EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center.

Jeff Gratz, EPA Region 2, Deputy Director for Clean Water Division

Jim Gebhardt, Director for EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

Session 2

9:30-10:30am

Communicating Utility Needs to Customers: Getting Community Buy-in for Financing Needs

Share successful communication campaigns and community engagement efforts that focus on local drivers.

Sonia Brubaker, Program Manager for EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center, Value of Water campaigns and community engagement efforts

Rich Henning, Senior Vice President of Communications for SUEZ

Importance of community buy-in for innovative financing

10:30-10:45am

Break

Session 3

10:45am-12:00pm

Financing Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

Hear from a utility on how planning helped to finance needed infrastructure.

Andrew Kricun, P.E., BCEE, Executive Director/Chief Engineer of Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority

Interact with a panel of experts on:

- Importance of upfront planning for financial sustainability.
- Using asset management practices to inform capital decisions.

Panel:

Kellie Kubena, Director of Engineering and Environmental Staff for USDA Rural Development, Rural Utilities Service

Karen Fell, Assistant Director of Water Systems Operations Element for New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Rick Howlett, Executive Director for New Jersey Water Association
New Jersey Environmental Infrastructure Trust (invited)



Session 4
12:00-1:00pm

Networking Lunch - Lunch provided

Session 5
1:00-2:15pm

Assessing Financial Health

Hear how to measure healthy financial indicators.

Glenn Barnes, *University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center*

Session 6
2:15-3:15pm

Group Discussion - Setting Rates for Resilient Management

Discuss how rate frameworks help with financing sustainable infrastructure projects.

Discussion questions:

- What challenges are communities facing when making long-term infrastructure decisions?
- What does a sustainable rate structure look like to you?
- If you were suddenly given a budget increase, what would you spend it on?
- What are the best ways to communicate financing and management needs to your board/decision makers, and your customers?

Session 7
3:15-3:30pm

Conclusion

Take-aways from the discussions

Suggestions for the Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center

Jim Gebhardt, *Director for EPA's Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center*

Session 8
3:30-4:30pm

Networking with Peers and Funders - Light refreshments provided

Talk one-on-one with:

- Funders/funding experts about local finance needs
- Utility peers on financing experiences
- The Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center to hear about services and activities