An Equitable Water Future

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Water and Planning Connect
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About the US Water Alliance
About the Alliance

Educate

Accelerate

Celebrate
Imagine a Day Without Water

October 10, 2018

imagineadaywithoutwater.org/signup
Project objectives

• **Understand and document** the impacts of water management on vulnerable communities

• **Highlight** and **celebrate** promising strategies for advancing equitable water management

• **Advance** equitable policies and practices in the water sector

• **Build** collective capacity to make our water systems more equitable
**Defining terms**

**Water equity** occurs when all people have access to safe, clean, affordable water services, are resilient in the face of environmental challenges, and have a stake in decision-making around water management.

**Vulnerable communities** face historic or contemporary barriers to socioeconomic opportunities. Vulnerable populations include low-income people, people of color, immigrants, seniors, children, those with limited English-speaking ability, people with disabilities, and those living in rural and tribal communities.
Water stress in vulnerable communities
Aging and inadequate infrastructure

Courtesy of Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
Lack of infrastructure
Water quality

Courtesy of Community Water Center
Climate impacts
Public participation
Examples of water stress in different regions

Unincorporated areas
  Central Valley of California

Native American lands
  parts of Alaska

Disinvested urban areas
  Great Lakes region

Rural areas
  Appalachia region and the South

Coastal lands
  Gulf Coast
The Pillars of Water Equity

**PILLAR ONE**
Ensure all people have access to clean, safe, affordable water service

**PILLAR TWO**
Maximize the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investment

**PILLAR THREE**
Foster community resilience in the face of a changing climate
Water Equity Taskforce
Project objectives

- Create a **shared understanding** of the challenges, opportunities, and promising interventions to promote equitable water management in each Taskforce city and at the national level;

- Create a peer-exchange platform to support **collaboration, capacity building, and knowledge exchange** on water equity between different regions and cities; and

- Accelerate the **development and adoption of equitable water policies** and practices by utilities, community based organizations and other stakeholders.
Environmental and economic challenges
Promising practices
Thank you!

For more information:

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Discussion questions

• What are the water equity challenges in the geography where you work?

• What would be needed to create equitable approaches to these challenges?

• What obstacles does your organization face in implementing more equitable strategies?

• What are some success stories of addressing water equity effectively (either in your work or others)?