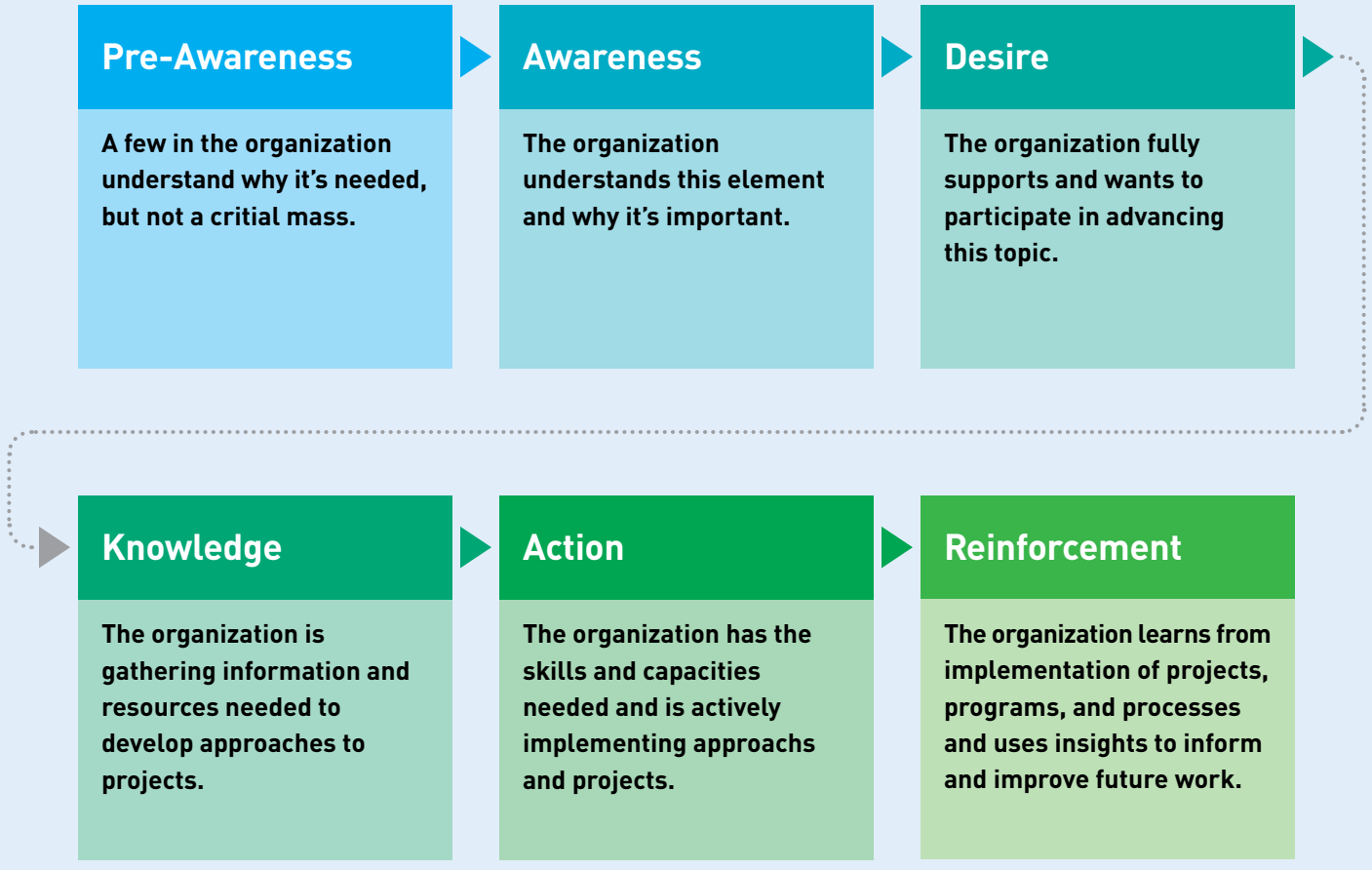
One Water Implementation Rubric for Utilities

The *One Water Implementation Rubric for Utilities* helps utilities self-assess how One Water elements can be incorporated into their work. There are two components of this rubric: a list of One Water elements and the stages of learning related to each element that a utility might fall under.

Utilities can assess the elements listed in this rubric alongside these learning stages to understand the degree to which the organization has each element in place. Elements of One Water can exist at multiple levels of a utility's identity and functioning. This allows for utilities in a range of places with One Water management to see themselves as part of the One Water movement. The list of One Water elements in this rubric is not meant to be exhaustive, and the list will likely evolve.

Six Learning Stages



Instructions for rubric use:

Read each row in the "Common Elements of One Water" column. Then, fill in the bubble associated with the learning stage you believe applies to your organization.

Learning Stage

Common Elements of One Water	Pre-Awareness	Awareness	Desire	Knowledge	Action	Reinforcement
One Water is defined and centered in the organization's mission, vision, values, and/or policies.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Equity is defined and centered in the organization's mission, vision, values, and/or policies.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Project and program development is community-determined and community-led with proactive and consistent public engagement incorporated into priorities, planning, and delivery.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Planning, budgeting, and coordination are integrated and collaborative across the water cycle with other utilities, departments, and/or local institutions from other sectors.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Issues and opportunities are addressed as close to the source and as far upstream as possible. Examples include programs and projects that engage upstream and downstream watershed partnerships like agriculture-municipal partnerships and pollution prevention and source water protection partnerships.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Customers' needs are evaluated holistically and drive utility partnerships and efforts to provide services to customers for and beyond water services (e.g., housing, energy, and food relief).	○	○	○	○	○	○
Financing and implementation approaches balance multiple benefits and community goals. Approaches may include community-based public-private partnerships (CBP3s), public-private partnerships (P3s), improvement districts, aggregation programs, trading programs, pay for success agreements, and mitigation banking.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Procurement and purchasing processes require inclusion of minority- and/or women-owned businesses and small business enterprises in contracts. This data is tracked throughout the contract life cycle and made publicly available.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Affordability is approached from multiple dimensions, including providing assistance programs, creative financing and revenue solutions, and mitigating short- and long-term costs.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Capital projects and programs seek to address legacy community challenges and achieve multiple benefits (e.g., environmental, social, and economic benefits).	○	○	○	○	○	○
Capital projects and programs prioritize climate action (mitigation, resilience, and/or adaptation).	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs incorporate water reuse.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs recharge groundwater and benefit ecosystem health.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs restore natural systems and use natural systems to achieve water management goals (e.g., green infrastructure).	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs maximize energy efficiency and recovery.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs incorporate renewable energy projects.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs recover nutrients and other recyclable resources.	○	○	○	○	○	○
Projects and programs prioritize water efficiency and demand management at the same level as new supply development.	○	○	○	○	○	○