US Water Alliance

WATER EQUITY NETWORK



The US Water Alliance supports the nation's only cross-sector network dedicated to ensuring an equitable water future. The Water Equity Network includes water and wastewater utilities, community-based organizations, resident leaders, environmental justice advocates, philanthropic partners, and more. Participants collaborate to learn about water equity, identify priorities and opportunities, take action locally, and share best practices nationally.



(ABOVE: US WATER ALLIANCE NETWORK, INCLUSIVE OF ALL WATER EQUITY NETWORK MEMBER CITIES)



- Seattle WA

- 14. Cedar Rapids, IA
- 15. Richfield, MN
- 19. Little Rock, AR

- 28. Atlanta. GA

- 34. Allentown, PA
- 38. Baltimore, MD
- 40. Alexandria. VA
- 43. Richmond, VA
- 46. Wake County, NC



LEARN & EXCHANGE

Through virtual and in-person networking and peer exchanges, members learn from water equity leaders across the country and share information on best practices and the latest innovations. Activities include:

- → <u>US Water Alliance Webinars:</u> These monthly virtual events provide insights on foundational topics related to water equity and One Water. Open to everyone regardless of Water Equity Network membership.
- → Water Equity Network Virtual Peer Exchanges: Water Equity Network members can attend bi-monthly exchanges, which provide in-depth insights and best practices to advance water equity through presentations from network members and large-group peer discussions. Open to all Water Equity Network members. (Click here to join today!)
- → One Water Leadership Institutes: Water Equity Network members receive priority access to these premier skills-building sessions with experts in the field, free of charge. Institutes are typically two-day deep-dives into key priority topics for the Alliance and its members. Open to all US Water Alliance members.
- → Industry and Community Insights: Water Equity Network members receive access to field-defining research, frameworks, how-to guides, and best practice compendiums that accelerate the spread of water equity at the local, regional, and national scales.
- → Networking Opportunities: Water Equity Network members are invited to Aliance-hosted networking opportunities, often hosted alongside key water sector events. These are opportunities to connect and build relationships with other water equity leaders.



EXPLORE & IMPLEMENT

Through participation in a topic-based action Taskforce, Water Equity Network members and their partners will receive support and guidance to turn equity learnings into action. Supported by philanthropy, the US

Water Alliance currently supports three Taskforces focused on Water Affordability, Workforce Development, and Building Internal Equity Culture and Community Partnerships. Each Taskforce includes up to seven cross-sector community teams consisting of relevant utility staff, community leaders and staff from other city departments, local foundations, and/or other organizations pertinent to the topic. The Water Affordability and Workforce Development Taskforces require participation of local community partners and organizations throughout the entire Taskforce process. The Racial Equity and Authentic Community Partnerships Taskforce does not require participation from local community partners at the onset, as the goal is to build the internal utility culture needed to advance racial equity and build authentic partnerships with community. The programming for each Taskforce includes three components:

- Build and Explore. Water Equity Network members form a community team, build relationships internally and with other Taskforce participants, and create a shared vision for their location and for the Taskforce overall.
- 2. <u>Implement and Iterate.</u> Through Action Taskforces, participating teams choose and evaluate local interventions to pilot. Each community team receives direct facilitation and guidance from Alliance staff, subject matter experts, and Taskforce peers to support progress.
- **3.** Share and Inspire. The Taskforce and the Alliance present their efforts to wider audiences at events. These include virtual webinars and peer exchanges.

Defining Water Equity:

Water equity occurs when all communities and households have access to safe, clean, affordable drinking water and wastewater; are resilient in the face of floods, drought, and other climate risks; have a role in decision-making processes related to water management in their communities; and share in the economic, social, and environmental benefits of water systems.

PILLARS OF WATER EQUITY:

- Ensure all people have access to clean, safe, affordable water service
- Maximize the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investment
- Foster community resilience in the face of a changing climate



CREATE NATIONAL IMPACT

Water Equity Network members gain additional opportunities to share their successes and best practices for advancing equity through the US Water Alliance's national platform and beyond. This includes opportunities to present at One Water Summit, One Water Leadership Institutes, webinars, conferences, and more.

US Water Alliance members can join the Water Equity Network by completing this form.

Interested in joining the US Water Alliance? <u>Learn more about</u> <u>membership here</u> or contact us at info@uswateralliance.org

Learn more: <u>uswateralliance.org</u>

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