

TAP INTO RESILIENCE

March 27-28, 2019 | Austin, TX



Wednesday, March 27

9:00 AM - 10:30 AM - OPTIONAL MORNING BRIEFINGS

Show and tell with the University of Texas: Saving drops and dollars on a college campus

Join University of Texas Sustainability Director Jim Walker for a walking tour to learn about UT's extensive alternative water management strategies, including an innovative campus cooling system that recovers and reuses foundational groundwater, rainwater and even air condensate to cool buildings in the hot Texas sun. Using onsite, localized tech, UT saves more than 100 million gallons of potable water each year—over 30% of the water used on campus.

Water Management 101: Strategies for up-and-coming community water leaders

Join the WaterNow team and some of our friends in the field for a water crash course specifically designed for elected leaders. This interactive workshop will cover water law, hydrology, alternative water sources, and local water financing. Experts will showcase best practices for communicating the value of water to your constituents and share tips for working effectively with utility staff. No questions are bad questions; water is complex, and we'll give you the confidence you need to take the lead on your city's water challenges.

Community Water Fund Workshop (*presented by The Nature Conservancy*)

Join The Nature Conservancy for an interactive discussion about the untapped potential for creating collaborative and solutions-oriented water funds in your communities. TNC defines a water fund as a watershed-scale organization with the mission to protect local source water through watershed restoration, reforestation, forest protection, wildfire prevention, smart agriculture, and other strategies. They involve a broad group of community stakeholders including NGOs, farmers, industry leaders, and municipalities. TNC has supported the development of water funds across the US. Participants will take away a greater understanding of the Global Water Fund program and the tools and resources they need to consider developing a water fund in their own community.

10:30 - REGISTRATION OPENS & LUNCH

11:30 - OPENING PLENARY

- Welcome, Councilmember Katie Tovo, Austin, Texas
- Opening Remarks, U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman, Chair, Water, Power and Oceans Subcommittee (video)

1:00 - TAP INTO CONNECTIONS: THE WATERNOW WORLD CAFÉ

Engage with decision makers, thought leaders, and innovators in the water space, and learn about WaterNow's new Tap Into Resilience initiative and how it can benefit you and your community.

2:00 - THE FUTURE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

Every day, it seems like a new water challenge is making national headlines. Communities across the country are in uncharted territory and facing the growing effects of inadequate and aging infrastructure. It's time for a water transformation. This session will bring together national thought leaders in water

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management, policy and government to explore the next wave of strategies for addressing these challenges at scale and building resilient communities. Together, we will write the next chapter in our water future.

Speakers:

- Felicia Marcus, California State Water Resources Control Board (Moderator)
- Cooper Martin, Sustainable Cities Institute, National League of Cities
- Ted Heniflin, Hampton Roads Sanitation District, Virginia
- Kristen Evans, The Nature Conservancy
- Ann Bartuska, Resources for the Future

3:30 30 IDEAS IN 30 MINUTES TO REFORM YOUR COMMUNICATION PRACTICES

Leading utility communication experts, the H2Duo, share their ever-evolving set of communication best practices for local leaders. Pulling from lessons learned from their conversations with thought leaders and experts, both inside and outside the water industry, they offer insight and tools for summit attendees to better speak to their constituents and create more impact in their communities.

- Stephanie Zavala & Arianne Shipley, Rogue Water and Water In Real Life Podcast

4:00 GOING BIG ON RESILIENCE IN TEXAS

Texas faces extreme water events. From disastrous flooding to severe droughts, Texas sees it all. This panel of Texas water experts will explore recent developments within the Lone Star State and highlight the rippling rewards provided by localized infrastructure investment. Speakers will also share details surrounding the City of Austin's new Water Forward Program and the extraordinary collaboration that created it.

Speakers:

- Sarah Schlessinger, Texas Water Foundation (Moderator)
- Sharlene Leurig, Texas Water Trade
- Prof. Robert Mace, Meadows Center for Water, Texas State Univ.
- Kevin Crittendon, Austin Water

5:00 - PURE WATER BREWING ALLIANCE MIXER

Join us for sustainable beer made from 100% pure recycled water! The Pure Water Brewing Alliance is a collaboration of utilities, brewers, engineering firms, and technology companies. They'll help close out Day 1 of Tap Into Resilience by sharing their story over a few cold ones.

Speaker:

- Travis Loop, Water Environment Federation

6:00 PM - IMPACT AWARDS RECEPTION & DINNER

Come cheers with your fellow water warriors and honor the **2019 WaterNow Impact Award winners**, announced at this dinner reception. Our Impact Awards recognize champions who have gone above and

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beyond to make a meaningful impact in their community on water challenges. The evening offers the chance the unwind and network with a sea of leaders for inspiration on your next water initiative.

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Thursday, March 28

8:00 AM - REGISTRATION OPENS

9:00 - SHOW ME THE MONEY: SCALING UTILITY INVESTMENTS IN LOCALIZED STRATEGIES

There is an emerging consensus that public water resource agencies and their communities require significantly increased capital investment to address current water challenges and build resilience in the face of climate change. This session will explore the role of capital in the public water space, in particular how innovative financing can be used effectively to scale up adoption of localized, onsite water solutions; the role of impact investing and philanthropy in risk shifting; and other creative arrangements becoming available to help communities move toward sustainable water strategies while keeping water affordable, equitable, and accessible to all.

Speakers:

- Ed Harrington, Former President, Government Finance Officers Association (Moderator)
- Eric Letsinger, CEO, Quantified Ventures
- Hank Habicht, Managing Director, US Water Partnerships
- Tom Entsminger, Texas Water Development Board
- Peiffer Brandt, Raftelis

10:30 - PUBLIC UTILITY SUCCESS STORIES: LEADING THE INFRASTRUCTURE TRANSFORMATION

Everyone has the courage to go 2nd, or 3rd. But pioneers are crucial for proving out new strategies. WaterNow is exploring utility success in addressing water resource management challenges with “One Water,” decentralized innovations. This interactive session will spotlight communities from around the nation that have taken the leap with unconventional approaches and have experienced on-the-ground success worth bragging about.

Speakers:

- Mary Kelly, Culp & Kelly LLP (Moderator)
- Caroline Koch, WaterNow Alliance
- Karen Guz, San Antonio Water Systems, TX
- Kevin Shafer, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, WI
- Jaimie Galayda, Tucson Water, AZ
- Andrew Erdmann, City of Santa Fe, NM
- Jeff Odefey, American Rivers

11:45 PM – LUNCH

1:15 - BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- TECHSPLOATION: BRIDGING THE GAP BETWEEN TECH AND WATER AGENCIES

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Localized water tech, including smart irrigation systems, conservation software, leak detection devices and more, has the potential to play a significant role in water management – if we can implement it at scale. At this session, attendees will develop a better understanding of how emerging water management technologies can improve their ability to meet their community's sustainable water management goals.

Speakers

- Will Sarni, The Water Foundry (Moderator)
- Chris Klein, Rachio
- Chris Thompson, Spanish Fork, UT
- Erik Andersen, WaterSmart Software
- Eric Adler, Flume Technologies
- Michael Murphy, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

A CHANGING TIDE: PUTTING STORMWATER TO WORK FOR YOU

Managing flood risks and stormwater runoff is a growing challenge in American communities. This session will highlight green infrastructure success stories and innovations in stormwater management technology. The session will demonstrate opportunities to address stormwater challenges while keeping water rates affordable and providing new community benefits.

Speakers:

- Colin Wellenkamp, Mississippi River Cities and Towns Initiative (Moderator)
- Paula Connolly, Green Infrastructure Leadership Exchange
- Nicole Beck, 2nd Nature
- Seth Brown, Storm and Stream Solutions, LLC

2:30 - BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

- [EXPANDING YOUR SUPPLY: THE ONSITE REUSE REVOLUTION IS HERE](#)

From drought in the West to flooding in the Southeast, communities across the U.S. are looking to address water scarcity and increase resilience with onsite non-potable water reuse systems. For the last few years, a National Blue Ribbon Commission for Onsite Non-potable Water Systems has been working to foster a policy environment, and develop model standards and local rules to make it easier for utilities to support wider adoption of reuse systems locally and ensure health and safety. This panel, including some members of the Blue Ribbon Commission, will make the case for treating graywater, black water, stormwater, and rainwater runoff with onsite reuse technologies in all corners of the U.S.

Speakers:

- Katie Lackey, US Water Alliance (Moderator)
- Josina Morita, Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago
- Zach Gallagher, Natural Systems Utilities
- Prof. Sybil Sharvelle, Colorado State University
- Juan Ontiveros, University of Texas Austin Office of Sustainability

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- **LAND USE AND WATER: BREAKING THROUGH THE SILOS**

Water and land use planning are often siloed, an issue that creates roadblocks for water leaders trying to solve resource management challenges. This session will showcase efforts to rewrite this narrative as community leaders work across departments to support local economic growth with sustainable, healthy, and reliable water resource management. Attendees will come away with actionable steps to facilitate cross-department collaboration at home as well as tools and resources to implement smart, localized water and land use planning strategies in their communities.

Speakers:

- Anne Castle, Getches Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment (Moderator)
- Chris Sturm, New Jersey Future
- Danielle Dolan, Local Government Commission
- Jennifer Walker, National Wildlife Federation, Texas

4:00 - BRINGING IT HOME: FUNDING THE FUTURE OF WATER

Environmental philanthropy has been funding charitable organizations to address natural resource protection concerns for decades, but their focus on urban water management specifically has been increasing in recent years. Now more than ever, grantmakers are engaged in equity and access issues, green infrastructure, water use efficiency, urban water quality and more. In this session, leading grantmakers will describe opportunities for urban water resource utilities and share their visions, priorities and strategies. Learn how to tap into a better water future together.

Speakers:

- Cynthia Koehler, WaterNow Alliance (Moderator)
- Joya Banerjee, SD Bechtel, Jr. Foundation
- Margaret Bowman, Spring Point Partners LLC
- Emily Warren, Cynthia & George Mitchell Foundation
- Diane Schrauth, Funders' Network for Smart Growth and Livable Communities

5:00 PM - CLOSING & WHAT HAPPENS ON MONDAY