

Value of Water COALITION

Value of Water Coalition Celebrates a Successful Infrastructure Week 2016

During the week of May 16-23, 2016, the Value of Water Coalition joined more than 160 affiliate organizations for Infrastructure Week 2016, a bipartisan week of education, advocacy and media including nearly 70 events nationwide to demonstrate to the nation that [#InfrastructureMatters](#). As a member of [Infrastructure Week](#)'s Steering Committee, the Value of Water Coalition infused often invisible water issues into the national infrastructure dialogue.

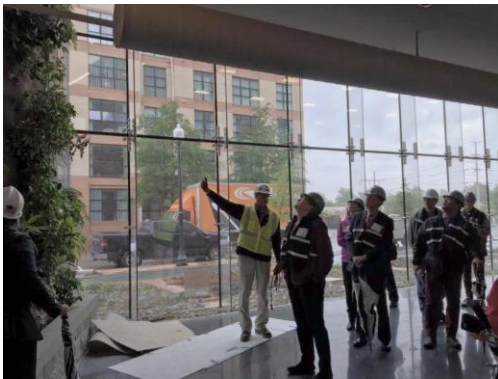


Across the country, Value of Water Coalition members hosted a [Local Innovators Tour](#) to celebrate the essential role of water infrastructure to our economy, environment, public health, and communities, and to spotlight innovative solutions to the nation's water infrastructure crisis. In **Hampton, VA**, **Congressman Bobby Scott**, **Mayor George Wallace**, and **Virginia Secretary of Natural Resources Molly Joseph Ward** joined [Hampton Roads Sanitation District](#) (HRSD) to [break ground](#) for a new sewer pump station. HRSD also hosted a [virtual tour](#) of their Virginia Initiative Plant Nutrient Reduction Improvement Project in **Norfolk, VA**.

[American Water](#) and **Mayor Dana Redd** in **Camden, NJ** celebrated a major milestone in a public-private partnership to improve water and wastewater services, and [provide workforce training](#) and skill development in the community.

In **Northeast Ohio**, Infrastructure Week started at the [City Club of Cleveland](#) and continued with [activities](#) including Sewer U seminar series and an up-close and personal look at the Tunnel Dewatering Pump Station, 400 steps below ground, hosted by the [Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District](#).

Our Local Innovators Tour continued in **Alexandria, VA** with a [behind the scenes look](#) at [Alexandria Renew Enterprises'](#) new state-of-the-art facilities, including the agency's LEED Platinum Environmental Center. We also toured the innovative nutrient management facility and adjacent athletic field, the only one of its kind in the country.



In **Los Angeles, CA**, teams from local elementary and middle [schools presented ideas on water](#) conservation, reuse, and stormwater capture to a panel of city planners from the LA Mayor's office, the [Board of Public Works](#), and [LA Sanitation](#).

Across the **greater Chicago** region, [Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago](#) (MWRD) gave away hundreds of free potted oak tree saplings to residents of Cook County during six open houses at MWRD water reclamation plants that showcase the agency's technology to [recover resources and transform water](#).

And the [American Society of Civil Engineers](#) gathered in **Pittsburgh, PA** and **Boulder, CO**, to discuss the importance of infrastructure to building sustainable communities that are resilient to climate change.

As part of our Local Innovators Tour, the Coalition launched a [multi-city broadcast outreach effort](#) to amplify the projects and events taking place around the nation. Radhika Fox, CEO of the US Water Alliance and Director of the Value of Water Coalition, conducted **11 live and taped radio interviews**, which collectively yielded **1,275 airplays** and **3 million gross impressions**.

In **Washington, DC**, the Value of Water Coalition partnered on a number of events to infuse water into the national infrastructure dialogue. At the [Infrastructure Week Kickoff Event](#) at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, **Snehal Desai**, **Global Marketing Director** for [Dow's Water and Process Solutions Business](#) joined a panel of executive leaders speaking on the importance of infrastructure to business and industry. **Jacqueline Hinman**, **CEO** of [CH2M](#) moderated a discussion between **Mayor David Condon** (Spokane, WA); **Mayor Sly James** (Kansas City, MO); **Mayor Stephanie Miner** (Syracuse, NY), which included a robust discussion on water infrastructure solutions.



The Value of Water Coalition was proud to host the **Infrastructure Week reception** on Capitol Hill, which brought together a diverse **crowd of 200** to celebrate how important infrastructure is to our economy, environment, communities, and public health and safety.

We also partnered with the National League of Cities on a [congressional briefing](#) focused on how local communities are solving some of the most pressing water challenges of our time through innovative partnerships, policies, programs, and financing models featuring **Congressman Paul Tonko**, **Stan Meiburg**, **Deputy Administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency** and an impressive panel of local leaders including **Council Member Ron Nirenberg** (San Antonio, TX), **Council Member Matt Zone** (Cleveland, OH); **Commissioner Heather Repenning** (Los Angeles, CA); **Tyrone Jue**, **Senior Advisor to Mayor Ed Lee** (San Francisco, CA); **John LaMacchia**, **Michigan Municipal League**; and **Jonathan Trutt**, **West Coast Infrastructure Exchange**.



Over the course of Infrastructure Week, there were several other events where Value of Water partners were featured. At the Bipartisan Policy Center, [American Water](#) president and CEO, **Susan Story**, presented a [new report](#) on increasing private capital for public infrastructure projects. And **George Hawkins**, **General Manager** of [DC Water](#) was an audience favorite at "[The Future of Cities](#)" event hosted by Bloomberg Government and Siemens.

Want more from Infrastructure Week? Check out these great news stories, interesting blogs, and new reports that were highlights of the week.

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- Forester Daily News, 4/13/2016 --
 - -- Reuters, 5/10/16
 - -- Wall Street Journal, 5/10/16
 - -- Washington Post, 5/10/16
 - -- WTOP, 5/12/16
 - -- The Hill, 05/15/16
 - -- Chicago Tribune, 5/15/16
 - -- TIME, 5/16/16
 - -- Water Online, 5/16/16
 - -- Water World, 5/16/16
 - -- 6ABC Action News Philadelphia, 5/17/16
 - -- The Hill, 5/17/16
 - -- CNBC, 5/17/16
 - -- Huffington Post, 5/17/16
 - -- The Atlantic City Lab, 5/18/16
 - -- The Hill, 5/18/2016
 - -- Courier-Post, 5/18/16
 - -- 89.3 KPCC, 5/18/16
 - -- The Hill, 5/19/16
 - -- Alexandria Gazette Packet, 5/19/16
 - -- Daily Press, 5/19/2016
 - -- Public News Service, 5/20/16
 - -- Philadelphia Business Journal, 5/22/16
 - -- The Virginian-Pilot, 5/22/16
 - -- The Salt Lake Tribune, 5/23/16
 - -- KFBK News Radio, Sacramento, 5/23/16
 - -- The Agenda, Politico, 5/25/16
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- Building 21st Century Infrastructure for 21st Century Cities - Radhika Fox, US Water Alliance |
 - Public-Private Partnerships: A Critical Piece of the Water Infrastructure Puzzle - Michael Dean, National Association of Water Companies |
 - In San Antonio, Investment in Water is Priority Number One - Councilmember Ron Nirenberg, City of San Antonio |
 - We're at an Infrastructure Crossroads - Howard Neukrug, US Water Alliance |
 - Senator Ben Cardin on Infrastructure Financing, Federal Partnerships & Strengthening the Nation - InfrastructureUSA |
 - Infrastructure Matters - Mayor Stephanie Miner, City of Syracuse, NY |
 - Why Infrastructure Matters for a Green Hampton Roads - Sarah Crawford, Hampton Roads Sanitation District |
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- *Failure to Act: Closing the Infrastructure Investment Gap for America's Economic Future* - American Society of Civil Engineers |
- *Paying for Local Infrastructure in a New Era of Federalism* - National League of Cities |
- *Infrastructure Skills: Knowledge, tools, and training to increase opportunity* - Brookings |
- *Bridging the Infrastructure Funding Gap* - Bipartisan Policy Center |