



# Enhancing Water Delivery and Waste Water Systems in the United States: An Agenda for 2021

Academy Election 2020 Project

Working Group: Create Modern Water Systems for Safe and Sustainable Use

## Background

Across the nation, America needs collaboration from all levels of government to address the pressing issues of climate change and create new water plans to ensure safe drinking water and efficient distribution of water to industry, agriculture, and the general public. Clean water across every community is essential to improving Americans' health, achieving social equity, and for developing the economy. Leadership at the federal level is necessary to ensure the standards for clean water are applied at the state and local level and to accelerate the adoption of new technologies and tools.

**The Challenge: Create Modern Water Systems for Safe and Sustainable Use:** Climate change, aging infrastructure, and dated governance and management structures have combined to undermine the safety and sustainability of America's water systems. In recent years, many parts of the country have experienced drought, leading states to limit the amount of water that can be used for agricultural purposes.

## Recommendations for 2021

- 1. Collaborate with other levels of government** to make short- and long-term decisions for water delivery and waste water systems and to take advantage of the experience that other levels of government bring.
- 2. Connect issues of water quality and water supply to national infrastructure challenges**, mainly the aging water systems.
- 3. Incorporate water in social equity goals** and set goals for community and demographic access to clean sanitation and drinking water, establish an intergovernmental strategy, and track the nation's progress.
- 4. Strengthen the water supply and water treatment workforce through an overall water workforce initiative for current and future needs.**

## Additional Resources

These resources provide additional information and recommendations in the line with the Election 2020 paper, [Enhancing Water Delivery and Waste Water Systems in the United States: An Agenda for 2021](#)

[The Academy: Election 2020: Enhancing Water Delivery and Waste Water Systems in the United States](#)

[The Academy: Roundtable on Creating Modern Water Systems for Safe and Sustainable Use](#)

[EPA: EPA Proposes 2020 Financial Capability Assessment for Water Services in Disadvantaged Communities](#)

[GAO: Water Infrastructure: Technical Assistance and Climate Resilience Planning Could Help Utilities Plan for Potential Climate Change Impacts](#)

[GAO: Alternative Drinking Water Systems: Use by Very Small Communities, Related Cost Savings, and Technical Assistance Provided by EPA and USDA](#)





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