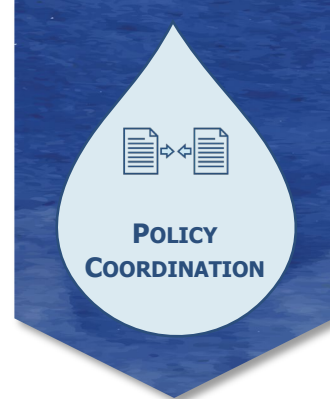


NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

COMPLETED ACTION



Action 2.15 Conduct Outreach and Training with Tribes to Build Water Reuse Capacity

Background

Many North American tribes face critical water supply challenges from pressures such as drought and increasing demand. Tribes have also raised concerns about potential challenges to implementing water reuse, such as developing operator capability to maintain reuse facilities, financing projects, and ensuring the protection of water quality. Various tribes have planned and implemented actions to recycle treated wastewater, principally for non-potable uses; however, there is opportunity for greater engagement and outreach with tribes to build wastewater recycling and stormwater capture and use capabilities.

As wastewater and stormwater treatment needs to support an array of end uses can be challenging, it is important that interested tribes have a clear understanding of both the potential opportunities and the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities necessary to ensure safe and reliable water reuse. A lack of tailored water reuse project development guidance and training for tribes speaks to the importance of providing opportunities for tribes to pursue safe and reliable water recycling projects.

Accomplishments

Through action implementation, the Action 2.15 team achieved several intended outcomes, including development of outreach and training tools geared toward tribes.

- A one-page outreach document on water reuse was distributed to tribal organizations in conjunction with outreach talks. The document introduces the WRAP, describes tribal water reuse challenges, and iterates EPA's interest in building partnerships with tribes ([Milestone 1](#)).
- A tailorable outreach presentation on tribal water reuse was created to engage the NTWC, NTC, and RTOCs in EPA Regions 2, 6, 8, and 9. The presentation covered various water reuse topics, including introduction to water reuse, case study examples of reuse applications, and how to get started ([Milestone 3](#)).
- The July 2020 *Keys to Success: Water Recycling in Tribal Communities* [webinar](#) (and [transcript](#)) included direct narrative from the San Pasqual Band of Mission Indians on their water reuse projects, and provided summary considerations in project implementation. Feedback was sought from attendees on water reuse interests and needs.
- A list of potential federal funding sources and a list of tribal water reuse online resources for tribal water reuse projects provided context and information for initial outreach meetings and the *Keys to Success: Water Recycling in Tribal Communities* webinar ([Milestone 6](#)).

Action Team

Action Leaders

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Action Partners

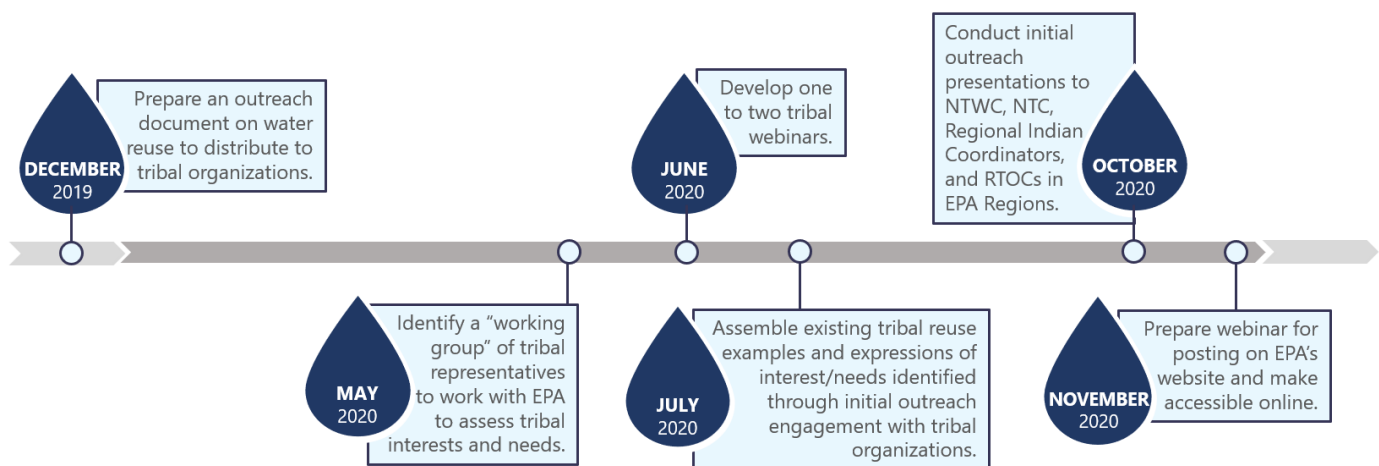
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- **National Tribal Operations Committees (RTOCs)**

Action Impact

Tribal communities are often disproportionately affected by environmental justice concerns. EPA's emphasis on tribal outreach and engagement through this action reiterates the importance of listening to water quality and quantity needs voiced by tribal communities and providing opportunities and resources that fulfill those needs.

The resources created by this action help to equip both tribal communities and EPA staff who work closely with tribes with information necessary to consider, evaluate, and develop safe and reliable water reuse projects. Outreach provides opportunities to pursue integrated watershed-scale water resource planning with tribes that considers various water sources and needs. Importantly, the resources developed under this action may also benefit small, non-tribal communities with similar challenges and needs.

Action Implementation Process



Future Activity

Various WRAP Actions are potentially relevant to tribal water reuse projects and encourage continued work in this topic.

- [Action 1.5](#) **Develop Case Studies of Successful Low-Input Water Reuse Solutions to Meet Local Water Needs:** The Environmental Council of the States is compiling reuse projects that have low energy, cost, and/or maintenance requirements. Tribes with resource investment constraints may be interested in learning about such technologies for potential implementation.
- [Action 6.1](#) **Compile Existing Federal Funding Sources for Water Reuse and Develop an Interagency Decision Support Tool:** Efforts include development of a decision support tool that will direct practitioners interested in water-related funding to targeted funding opportunities. Tribes seeking funding for water projects may be interested in using the tool once launched.
- [Action 8.5](#) **Engagement with Disadvantaged and Rural Communities on Water Reuse:** This action team conducts outreach sessions and training webinars. Rural tribes may be interested in attending these sessions, and the Action 8.5 team may highlight a tribal community reuse project in different examples.

To continue to inform EPA water reuse and tribal employees of opportunities to share related resources, future engagement on tribal water reuse may also include the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, International Agricultural Council, and Indian Nation Conservation Alliance.