



# Water/Wastewater

## Overview

While some jurisdictions have sufficient infrastructure to meet both current demand and future needs, many of the water and wastewater treatment facilities in the region are aging. Some have reached or are exceeding capacity and overuse of this infrastructure will ultimately limit its productivity and livability. Some systems are dealing with compliance issues that can be challenging to address as these systems represent some of the most costly systems for local governments.

Since adoption of our last economic development strategy, a number of cities and unincorporated communities have made significant strides in upgrading systems or accessing technical assistance that will accommodate current and future growth. However, our expanding economy will continue to place strains on this critical infrastructure and drive demands for well-functioning water and wastewater systems. In addition, increasingly we are faced with water access, storage and groundwater concerns. However, we have been a highly innovative region in our approach to dealing with these constraints. In many areas- from our Soil and Water Conservation Districts to Wy'East RC&D to the Farmer's Irrigation Districts- we are a leader in innovative practices and products.

# Infrastructure: Water/Wastewater Action Plan

## Priorities

	Collaborators	Timeline
<b>4.1 Strategy:</b> Address water and wastewater system constraints to economic development and to increase economic resiliency		
4.1.1 Inventory water and wastewater systems regionally. a) Assess current capacity and identify systems with room for growth. b) Provide mechanisms to support public awareness of facility capabilities- eg regional website page	Water districts, cities, MCEDD, county ec dev	Mid-term: assess Awareness: Long term
4.1.2 Prioritize and upgrade key water systems to address economic development constraints, focusing on: a) Systems serving industrial parks b) Redundancy for systems accessing water through sensitive ecological areas. c) Investments into facilities to keep pace and support growth in key industry sectors, such as food processing	Water districts, cities, MCEDD, county ec dev	Annual
4.1.3: Address aging septic systems. Provide technical assistance to small unincorporated areas.	States, local partners TBD	Long term
4.1.4: Provide technical assistance and grant administration to support key water/wastewater system projects. Host regional wastewater conversations to identify opportunities for collaborative management.	MCEDD	Ongoing
<b>4.2 Strategy:</b> Advocate for funding into innovative products and practices in the region and proliferate best practices		
4.2.1 Support innovation of technologies in irrigation and improving tools to support management of water resource (eg scientific irrigation scheduling-Wy'East)	Wy'east, FCA, soil/ water conservation districts, watershed councils, industry	Immediate-long term
4.2.2 Engage with and support Irrigation districts and Watershed Council projects.	Watershed councils, irrigation districts, county ec dev	Ongoing
<b>4.3 Strategy:</b> Support Watershed councils in addressing water resource concerns, such as declining aquifers.	Councils, local govt, county ec dev, MCEDD	Ongoing

	NCRST,	
<b>4.4Strategy:</b> Encourage state/federal money and grants at low interest for water/wastewater projects in the region.	Local advocacy entities	Current and next legislative session
<b>4.5Strategy:</b> Further develop efforts focused on water conservation.		
4.5.1 Encourage recycling techniques/sustainable practices to decrease effluent.	Industry associations, university, state	Mid term
4.5.2 Focus initially on large businesses and large municipal water users.	Industry associations, state	Mid term



515 East Second Street  
The Dalles, Oregon 97058  
[www.mcedd.org](http://www.mcedd.org)