



**Water Sustainability
in Federal Civilian Agencies
*U.S. EPA***

***Ron Hoffer,
Senior Advisor, EPA Office of Water
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“Sustainability is a continuum.....” Bob Perciasepe







National Research Council
“Green Book” Recommendations to EPA
September 2011

- Comprehensive sustainability framework
- Set 3-5 year “breakthrough objectives”
- Develop a “sustainability toolbox”
- Risk assessment remains key to sustainability decision making
- Focused program of change management inside EPA
- Hire multidisciplinary professionals and augment staffing from additional sectors (e.g. social & health)



1. Build on
the Base

- Spread the word on pilots & initiatives
- Expand the most promising

- ✓ ***Green Infrastructure*** for managing wet weather flows
 - State Revolving Fund (SRF) allocation
 - compliance incentives and technical assistance
- ✓ ***Sustainable Water and Wastewater Systems***
 - Partnerships, handbooks, guidance and technical assistance
 - SRF allocation for energy/water efficiency
 - Utility asset management and Climate-ready water utilities
- ✓ ***WaterSense***
 - Supporting water use efficiency in homes and businesses



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- Spread the word on pilots & initiatives
- Expand the most promising

Selected examples include:

- ✓ Urban waters and sustainable community pilots*
- ✓ Healthy Watersheds Initiative*
- ✓ Wastewater and biosolids reclamation
- ✓ NetZero pilots with U.S. Department of Defense
- ✓ Climate-ready estuaries*

* Includes focus at the watershed level



2. Advance the tools

- Share/advance current tools & indicators
- Broaden range of tools & indicators

Some current examples:

- ❖ Tools and metrics -- effective utility management
- ❖ Tools and metrics -- Green Infrastructure
- ❖ Value of water and ecosystem services
- ❖ Modeling climate impacts and adaptation options

Emerging approaches include:

- ❖ Water sustainability indicators
- ❖ Lifecycle costing

- Commit to sustainability targets
- Advance “breakthrough” sustainability policies

Ideas for targets and sustainability policies:

- Green versus grey infrastructure
- Energy use at the utility level
- Water use at the utility and user level
- Incentives for rehabilitating in lieu of new infrastructure
- Reporting on sustainability measures?