

NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

COMPLETED ACTION



Action 6.4: Compile and Promote Existing U.S. Department of Agriculture Funding and Resources for Rural Communities

Background

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) offers several funding programs that help support projects that advance water reuse and conservation. This action aimed to identify, compile, and promote USDA funding opportunities for water and wastewater infrastructure projects. For example, the USDA-Rural Utilities Service (RUS) [Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant Program](#) provides infrastructure funding for households and businesses in eligible rural areas. RUS's [Water and Waste Disposal Technical Assistance and Training](#) (TAT) Grant Program helps qualified, private nonprofits provide technical assistance and training to identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste problems, applicants prepare applications for water and waste disposal loans/grants, and associations improve the operation and maintenance of water and waste facilities in eligible rural areas.

The action team provided information and technical assistance to rural communities, promoted and financed water reuse projects, and assessed new opportunities for water reuse within USDA Rural Development programs.

Accomplishments/Impact

Accomplishments under Action 6.4 include increased opportunities for:

- **Incorporating water reuse within existing Rural Utilities financial assistance programs.** USDA incorporated language into regulations that identify water reuse as an eligible expense and project type.
- **Rural communities to benefit from technical assistance and training programs that encourage water reuse.** In September 2022, a notice of funding opportunity was released for technical assistance and training on several different topics, including water reuse.
- **Furthering knowledge.** USDA trained internal and external engineers and loan specialists on understanding how to evaluate water reuse projects for engineering and loans.



Internal Training—Boise, Idaho

Action Team

Action Leaders

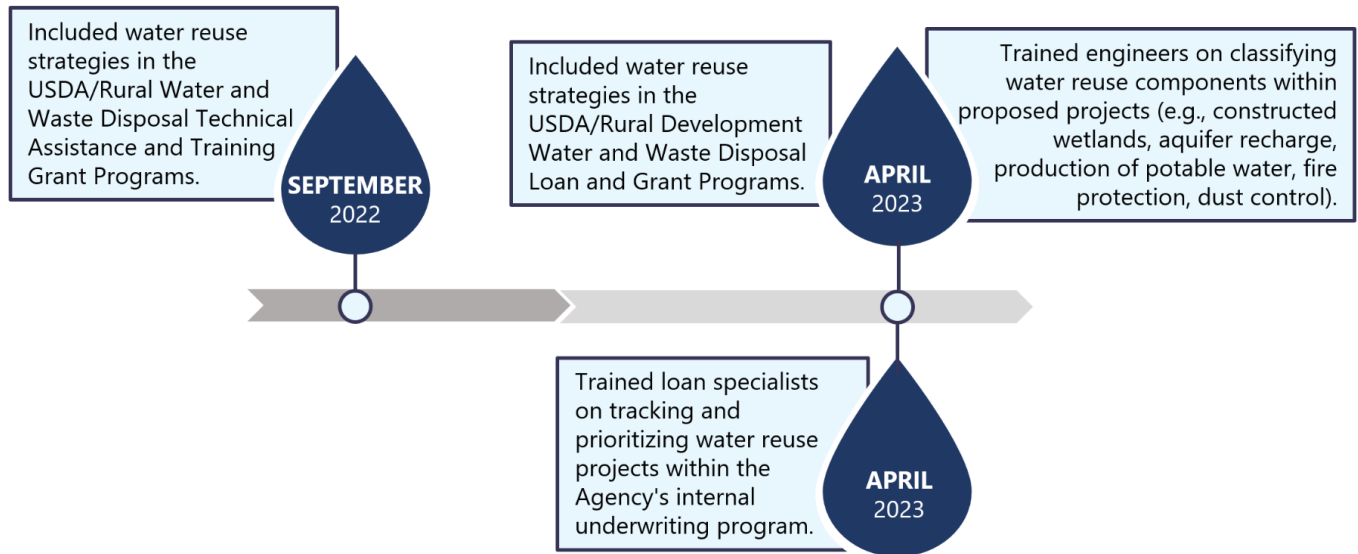
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Action Partners

- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
- **National Rural Water Association (NRWA)**
- **Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP)**

- **Internal collaborations on water reuse.** USDA sought to strengthen partnerships within USDA to understand the potential for water reuse work and expand networks. See the “Potential Future Activity” section for more details.

Action Implementation Process



Potential Future Activity

- Internal and external trainings for audiences such as engineers and loan specialists are ongoing and are anticipated to include strategies related to funding projects that include water reuse and outreach to reuse-focused systems and engineers. Reports from USDA’s internal underwriting system will be generated quarterly to assess water reuse applications, investments, and data.
- Collaboration within USDA on the topic of water reuse is also ongoing. USDA Rural Development will continue to reach out to USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and USDA-Farm Service Agency (FSA) for opportunities to partner and network.



USDA Internal Training—Jackson, Mississippi

Additional Resources

- [Water and Environment Programs](#)
- [National Rural Water Association](#)
- [Rural Community Assistance Partnership](#)