

NATIONAL WATER REUSE ACTION PLAN

COMPLETED ACTION

Action 11.5: Facilitate a Global Dialogue on Water Reuse



Background

Drivers for, and experiences with water reuse differ, but goals to increase water supply reliability and protect public health are interconnected across the globe. Following discussions at the 2023 United Nations Water Conference, WaterReuse and IDRA recognized the need to foster international dialogues on water reuse among water professionals to advance its implementation and identify areas for potential collaboration. In 2024, WaterReuse and IDRA hosted two Global Dialogues on Water Reuse to bring together international thought leaders who are working to expand local water reuse projects, such as water utilities, practitioners and consultants.

Interactive roundtable workshops and expert panels allowed participants to explore water reuse drivers, challenges and successes across countries; share lessons learned; create connections; and foster collaboration to advance water reuse internationally. Roundtable discussions focused on four core topics: institutions, policies, and regulations; technology; financing and funding; and communications. Within each topic, participants explored types of water reuse applications and practices, such as using treated wastewater for agricultural and landscaping irrigation, aquifer and groundwater recharge, industrial reuse, onsite water reuse and potable water reuse. Discussion from the sessions is reflected in the white paper mentioned in the following section.

Action Team

Action Leaders

- **International Desalination and Reuse Association (IDRA)**
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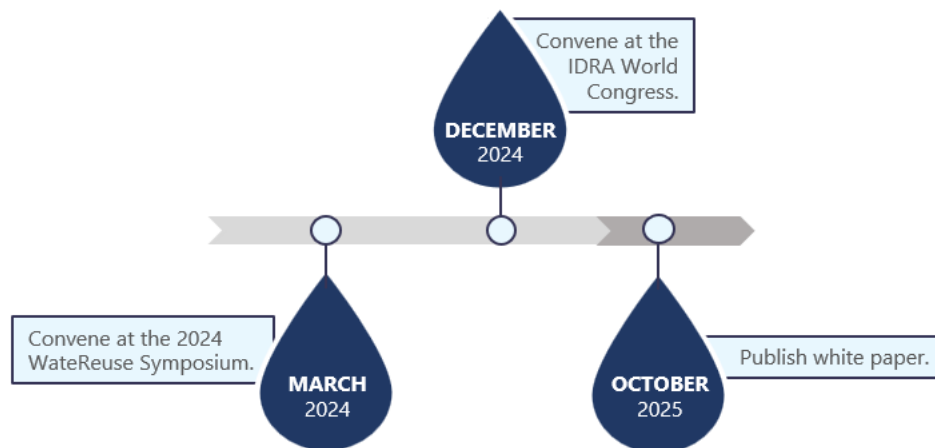
Accomplishments/Impact

- Held a panel session with international water leaders and an interactive Global Dialogue on Water Reuse roundtable workshop at the WaterReuse Association's Annual Symposium in Denver, Colorado in March 2024. Participants representing twelve countries participated in the workshop.
- Held a panel session with international water leaders and another interactive Global Dialogue on Water Reuse roundtable workshop at the IDRA World Congress 2024 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates in December 2024. Participants representing fourteen countries participated in the workshop.
- Published a white paper in October 2025, titled *[Initiating a Global Dialogue on Water Reuse: Sharing Perspectives from Around the World to Advance Water Reuse](#)*, which summarizes key observations and lessons learned from the Global Dialogue sessions and suggests collaborative actions for advancing water reuse globally. Example suggested actions to advance reuse include:
 - Use delegations from country to country to share information, strengthen professional networks and advance reuse implementation.
 - Increase information sharing from technology pilots and demonstration projects.
 - Develop more incentives for water reuse, such as tax credits, financial support or penalties for overuse of freshwater.
 - Educate and engage medical doctors, schools of public health, volunteer organizations and other community leaders as water reuse advocates.

Impact

- Following the United Nations Water Conference, WaterReuse and IDRA initiated the Global Dialogue on Water Reuse in response to the call to action set forth by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly certain sub-goals under Goal 6, “[Ensure access to water and sanitation for all](#).” The Sustainable Development Goals of particular interest to this effort include:
 - Improve water quality, wastewater treatment, and safe reuse:** By 2030, improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials, halving the proportion of untreated wastewater and substantially increasing recycling and safe reuse globally.
 - Expand water and sanitation support to developing countries:** By 2030, expand international cooperation and capacity-building support to developing countries in water- and sanitation-related activities and programmes, including water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling and reuse technologies.¹
- Insights from over 70 water reuse experts across 18 countries informed the white paper that identifies challenges, suggests actions to advance reuse and provides curated resources organized by discussion topic. The conference sessions provided forums for purposeful, open dialogue where participants created connections and openly shared methodologies and knowledge to advance reuse globally.

Action Implementation Process

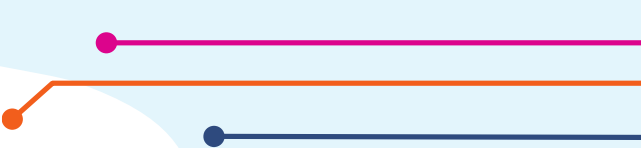


Potential Future Activity

To foster progress, WaterReuse and IDRA suggest the following actions and ideas to advance water reuse globally and invite partners to engage in these efforts.

- Continue the global dialogue on water reuse.** Focus future Global Dialogue sessions on areas with the greatest potential for advancing water reuse internationally, such as decentralized water reuse or financing water reuse systems. Extend invitations to a diverse set of associations and practitioners to capture perspectives on the challenges and opportunities involved in implementing or advancing reuse across sectors.

¹ United Nations. (n.d.). [Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation](#). In *Global Goals—United Nations*.

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- **Develop a plan for creating an online toolkit to facilitate international information sharing.** Convene a group of global water reuse experts and plan the development of an online toolkit that is comprehensive, accessible and user-friendly. The intention would be to have a repository of case studies, reports, operations and maintenance guides and templates spanning a variety of regions, reuse applications and topical interests/needs.
 - **Plan and hold delegation and matchmaking events.** Create cross-sector opportunities to advance water reuse solutions that address the global water crisis, which could benefit economies, ecosystems and societies collectively. For example, organize a delegation and matchmaking event between developing countries and large-scale global reuse manufacturers and operators.

Additional Resources

- [Press Release on the Global Dialogue on Water Reuse white paper.](#)
- [WaterReuse Association's International Water Reuse Committee.](#)