



Water Reuse in Industrial Applications

Purpose

The LGAC is charged to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Water Reuse Workgroup was established to support the increased use of reclaimed water and other water resource policies within industrial locations.

The Workgroup will not advise the EPA Administrator directly but will transmit its recommendations to the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC). The LGAC will discuss and deliberate on the recommendations of the Workgroup, and the LGAC will deliver the recommendations to the Administrator.

Client Office

Office of Water, with support from the Administrator's Office and Office of External Affairs

Background

It is a critical time for water. Our nation's water needs are changing rapidly thanks to evolving community needs, manufacturing growth, the artificial intelligence and data center revolution, increasing energy production, and other economic opportunities. In this dynamic context, water reuse has never been more important.

Water reuse offers a tremendous opportunity to strategically treat wastewater for specific purposes. By reusing water purposefully and deliberately, our communities can be healthier and stronger, U.S. industries can operate more efficiently, and our economy can grow faster. Under Administrator Zeldin's leadership, the EPA is bringing a fresh focus to water reuse. We are emphasizing reuse for industry, the technology sector, and energy dominance.¹

The EPA's Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative, launched in 2025, includes several pillars related to this important work, including Pillar 2 (Restore American Energy Dominance), Pillar 3 (Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism and Cross-Agency Partnership) and Pillar 4 (Make the United State the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World).²

Charge

Through the Water Reuse Action Plan 2.0, published in April 2026, the EPA has established a series of actions designed to accelerate the adoption of water reuse to lower costs and ensure a reliable supply of this vital input for sectors that drive the American economy.

¹ Water Reuse Action Plan 2.0. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.
<https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2026-04/wrap-2.0-booklet.pdf>.

² Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative. <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-administrator-lee-zeldin-announces-epas-powering-great-american-comeback>



Local governments and community leaders play an important part in achieving these goals, and their input will be vital for EPA's success. The LGAC's work is to focus on activities and policies the fall under EPA's statutory authority and the authority it delegates to states.

The LGAC is asked to provide input in support of the following actions:

- **Identify Best Practices in Permitting to Support States in Expanding the Use of Recycled Water for Industrial and Data Center Cooling Applications.**
 - EPA is actively cataloguing best practices relevant for industrial cooling systems so that state and local government can readily permit the use of recycled water for data centers. The LGAC will review these best practices, offer additional practices, and identify gaps where communities are facing barriers and would benefit from additional tools.
- **Review Existing Resources and Identify Resource Barriers.**
 - EPA maintains a web portal with key resources to support water reuse for industrial manufacturing, AI/data centers, and energy production. The LGAC will review these resources, advise on how to better utilize these resources, and identify gaps where state and local governments need additional resources.
- **Build Trust in Recycled Water Nationwide.**
 - One of the most important elements of advancing water reuse is communicating the value to community members. The EPA plans to roll out a National Communication Strategy to support communities as they work to improve public perception of recycled water. The LGAC will provide insight into this strategy from their on-the-ground experience engaging directly with community members.

Details of LGAC Workgroup Action

This charge will be presented at a public meeting in September 2026, for input from LGAC members and the public.

Members will self-select to join a workgroup dedicated to answering the charge. Staff in OCIR, Office of Water and OEA will work together to schedule monthly workgroup meetings. During these meetings EPA staff will share information about EPA's current and proposed work related to this charge, and LGAC members will use this information to respond to the charge questions. While developing this work, the workgroup will invite EPA and external subject matter experts to join their conversations.

Updates on the workgroup's progress for each phase will be provided at subsequent public meetings.

Work may cross over with other EPA federal advisory committees as they address similar issues, including but not limited to the Environmental Finance Advisory Board and the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee.

Deliverables

See above for details