

WATER WORKFORCE WEBINAR SERIES

Preparing Your Workforce for the Future through Innovative Technology and Intelligent Systems

Office of Wastewater Management

Office of Water
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
June 18, 2024

We will start in a couple minutes. Thank you.



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Webinar Logistics

- This webinar is being recorded
- Participants will be in listen-only mode
- To submit a question, use the Q&A function



 Webinar slides and recording information will be sent out to all participants following the webinar

Water Sector Workforce at EPA

• Reminders:

- Check out our website for resources and updates: <u>https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-sector-workforce</u>
 - Workforce Initiative
 - Past Workforce Webinars
 - Workforce Case Studies
- Stay tuned for information on our next webinar. If you are registered for this webinar you are automatically on the email list for future webinars!

Having Audio Difficulties?

- Call in to any of these phone numbers:
- +1 669 254 5252
- +1 669 216 1590
- +1 646 828 7666
- +1 551 285 1373

Webinar ID: 160 475 4000

Opening Poll: Please indicate the sector that you work in:

- Utility
- State or Local Government
- Federal Government
- Consultant
- Academia/Educator
- Military/Veterans
- Other



Preparing Your Workforce for the Future through Innovative Technology and Intelligent Systems

Jim Horne, Sustainable Utilities Program Manager, U.S. EPA Office of Wastewater Management















CREATING THE WATER WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

WEBINAR SERIES

Preparing Your Workforce for the Future through Innovative Technology and Intelligent Systems

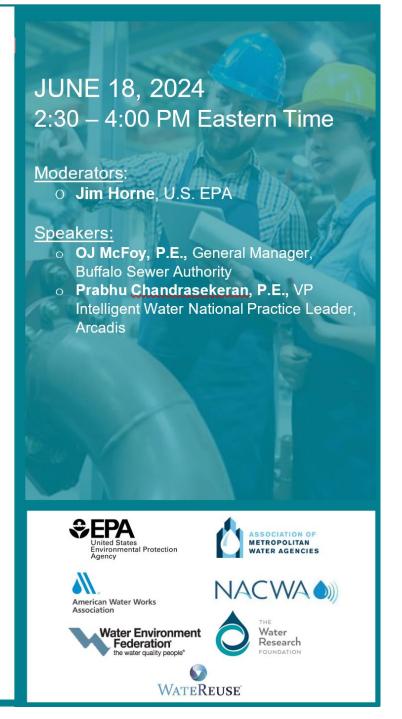
As today's water sector utilities address an ever more complex series of challenges, expanded use of innovative technology, artificial intelligence, and various ways of creating intelligent water systems, hold great promise. At the same time, it is critical that utilities bring their employees into the discussions about the best use of these approaches and prepare them to effectively use these new tools. These discussions must be intentional and ongoing.

Please join us on June 18th to hear how one leading utility (Buffalo Sewer Authority) is embracing these new approaches and ensuring their workforce is prepared to use them. In addition, you will hear more about an important project from the Water Research Foundation to help utilities take the necessary steps to develop a truly intelligent water system to meet the needs of their communities.

This webinar is part of an ongoing webinar series hosted by EPA, in partnership with leading water sector organizations around the country. More information on this webinar series can be found at https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-water-infrastructure/water-sector-workforce-webinars

ATTENDANCE IS FREE – REGISTER NOW! Register at:

https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN fSYCpJXLT 2sm2hBQc4qrA





Speakers:

OJ McFoy, P.E., General Manager, Buffalo Sewer Authority

Prabhu Chandrasekeran, P.E., VP Intelligent Water National Practice Leader, Arcadis

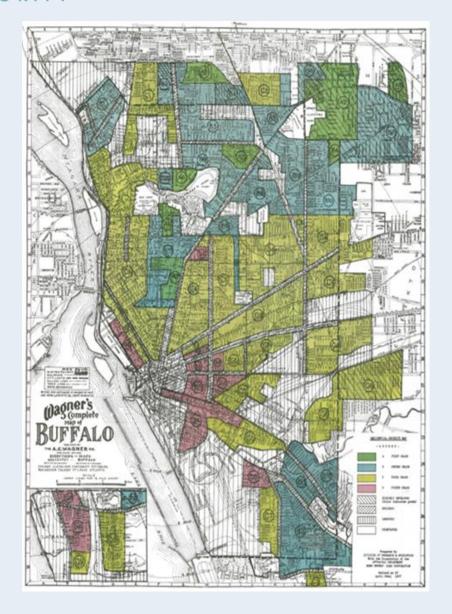
Webinar slides and recording will be sent to registrants within a week after the webinar.

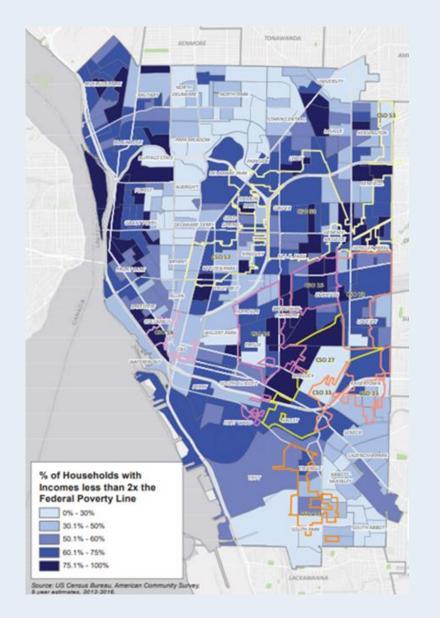


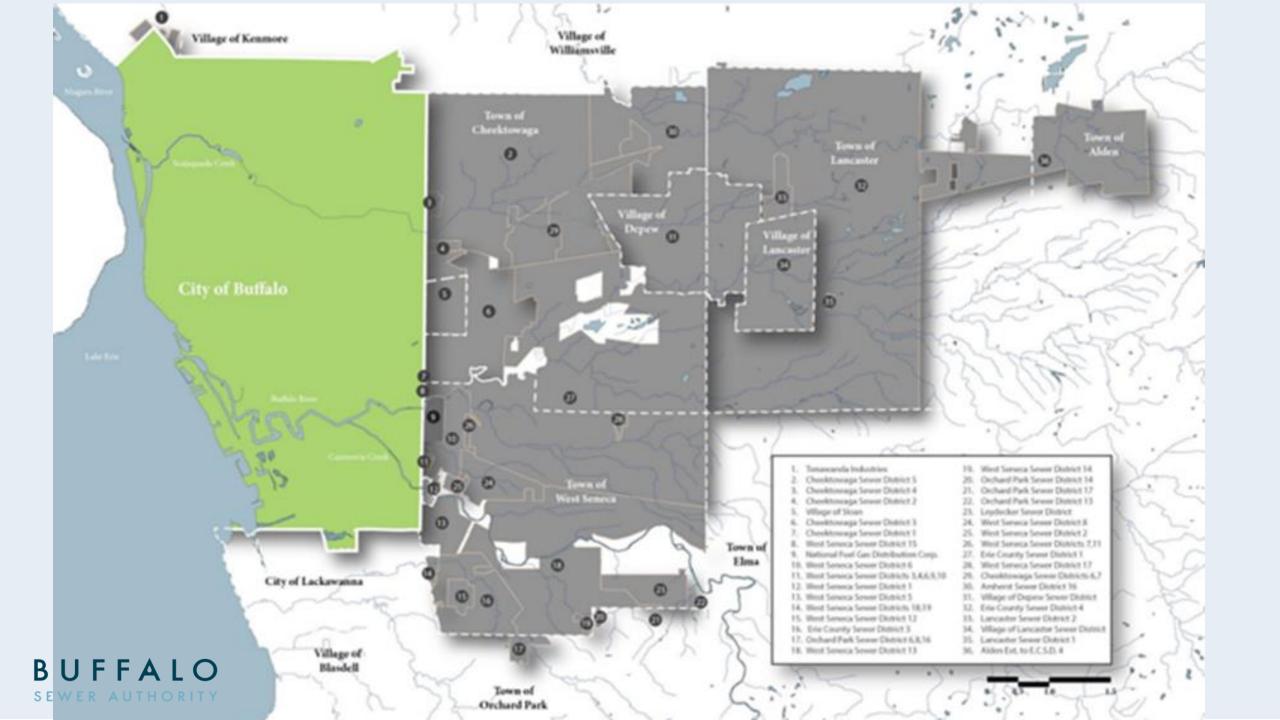


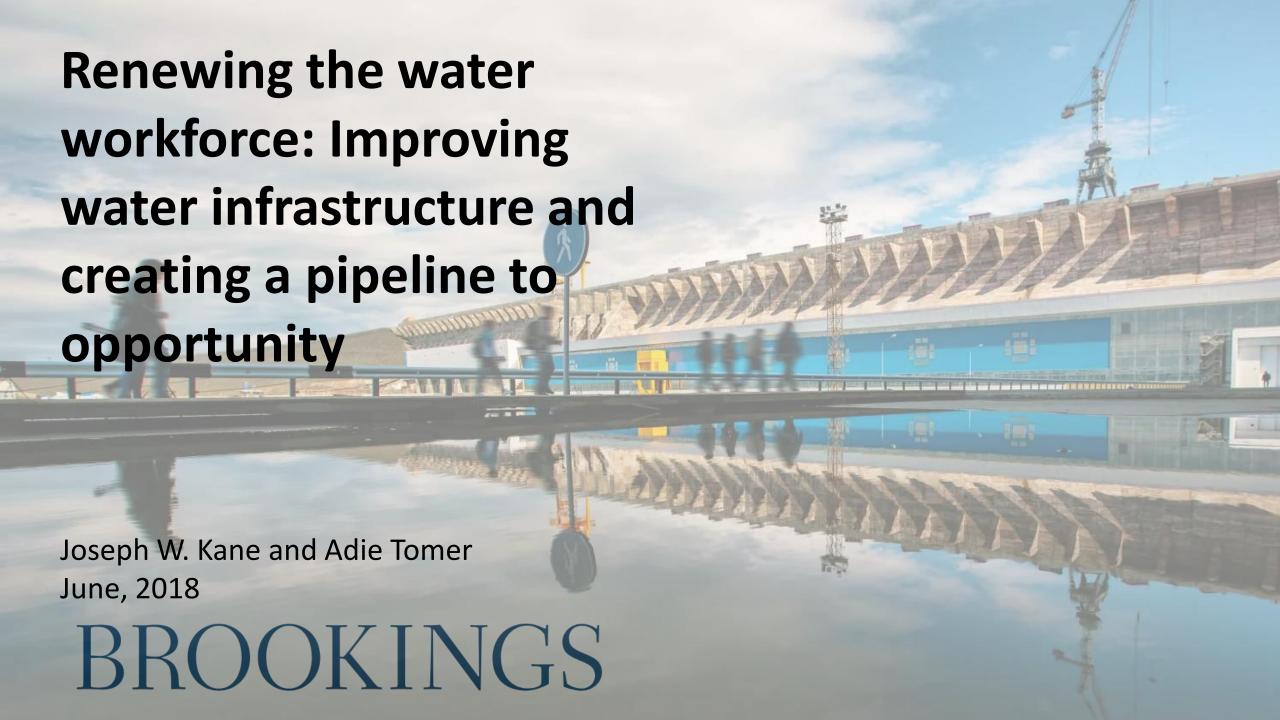
BUFFALO

SEWER AUTHORITY











AN EQUITABLE WATER FUTURE **Buffalo**









BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY

Multi-Year

Peer Reviewed process

6 City-wide

workshops and meetings

7 Cities

Atlanta, Buffalo, Camden, Cleveland, Louisville, Milwaukee, and Pittsburgh







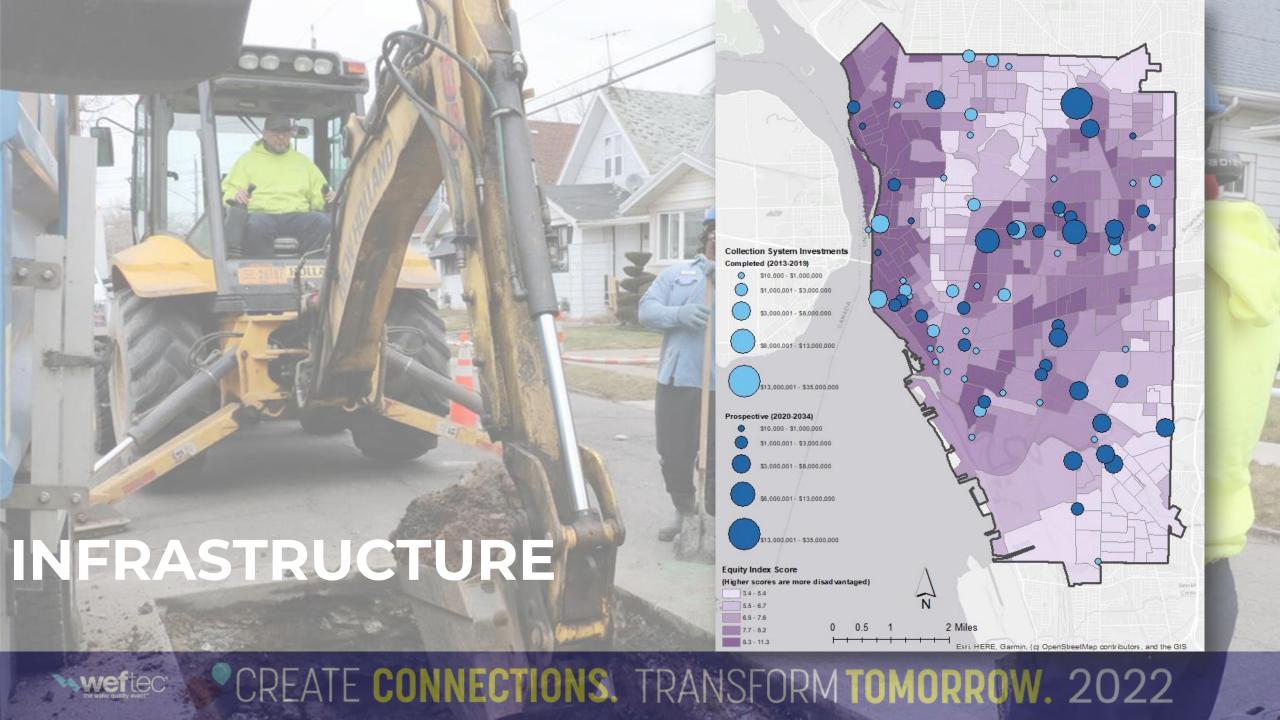








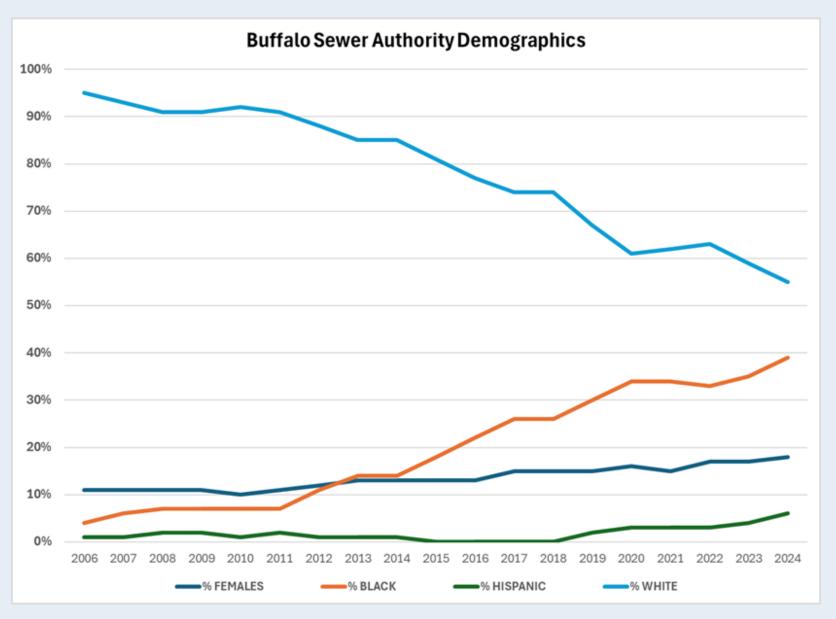






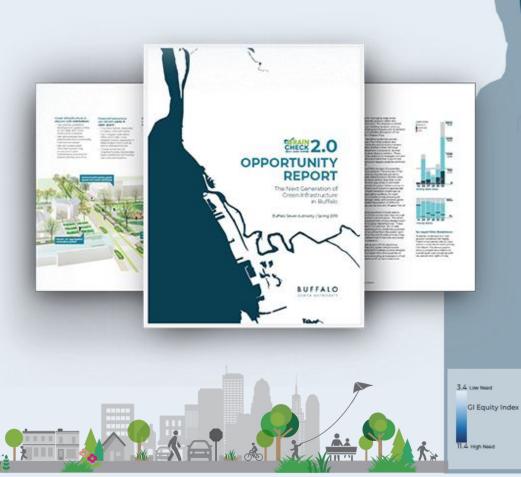
BUFFALO SEWER AUTHORITY

- Workforce diversity increased 900%
- 2. Intentional recruitment
- B. Professional development
- 4. Growth opportunities



BUFFALO

SEWER AUTHORITY

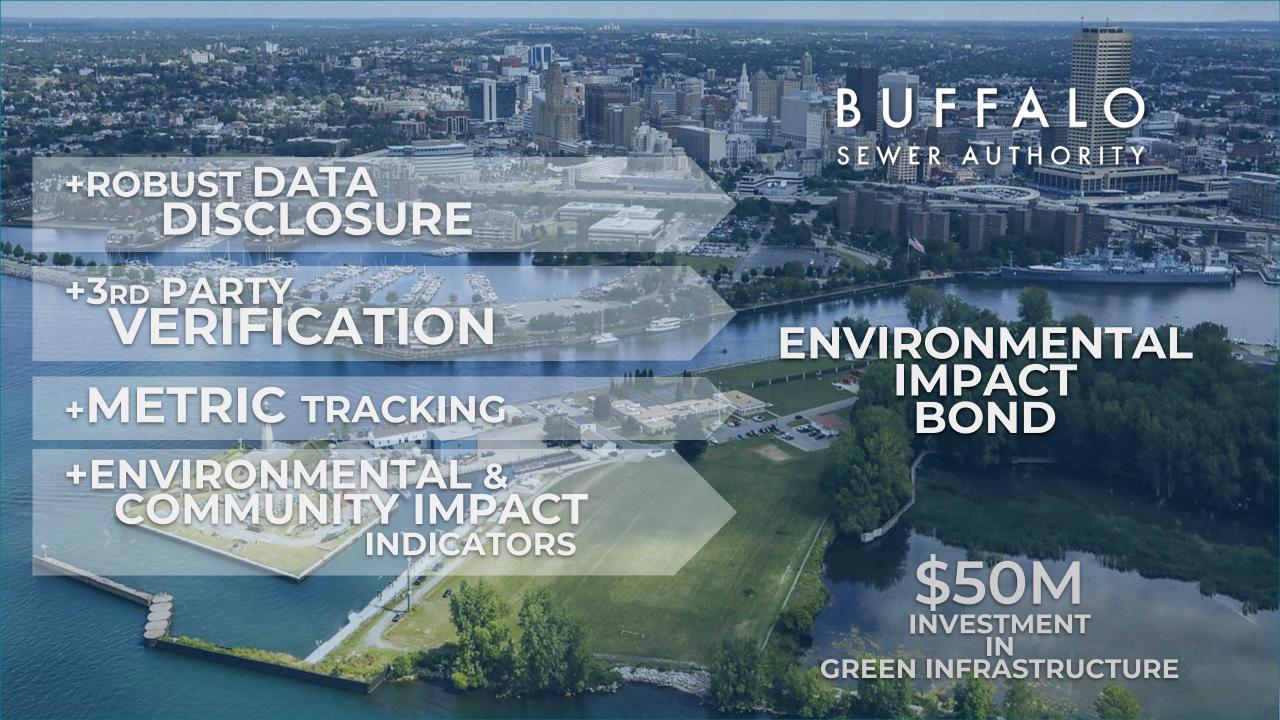


PRIORITIZING EQUITY Socio-economic factors: · Race and ethnicity · Income Education attainment Young children Older adults

- Owner occupancy
- Limited English speakers
- · Unemployment and labor force participation

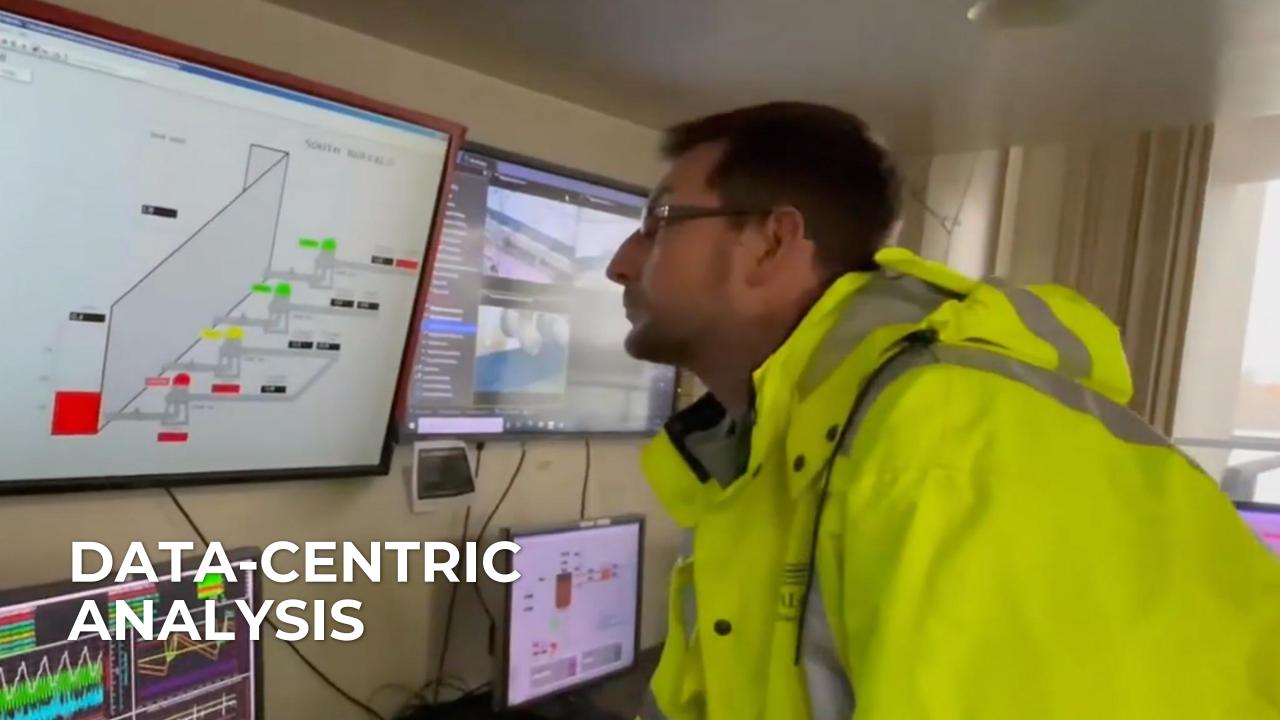
Built environment factors:

- Traffic proximity
- Ozone levels
- Particulate matter
- · Access to public open space
- · Tree canopy cover
- · Impervious surface cover
- Vacant land
- Residential vacancy rates
- Commercial vacancy rates















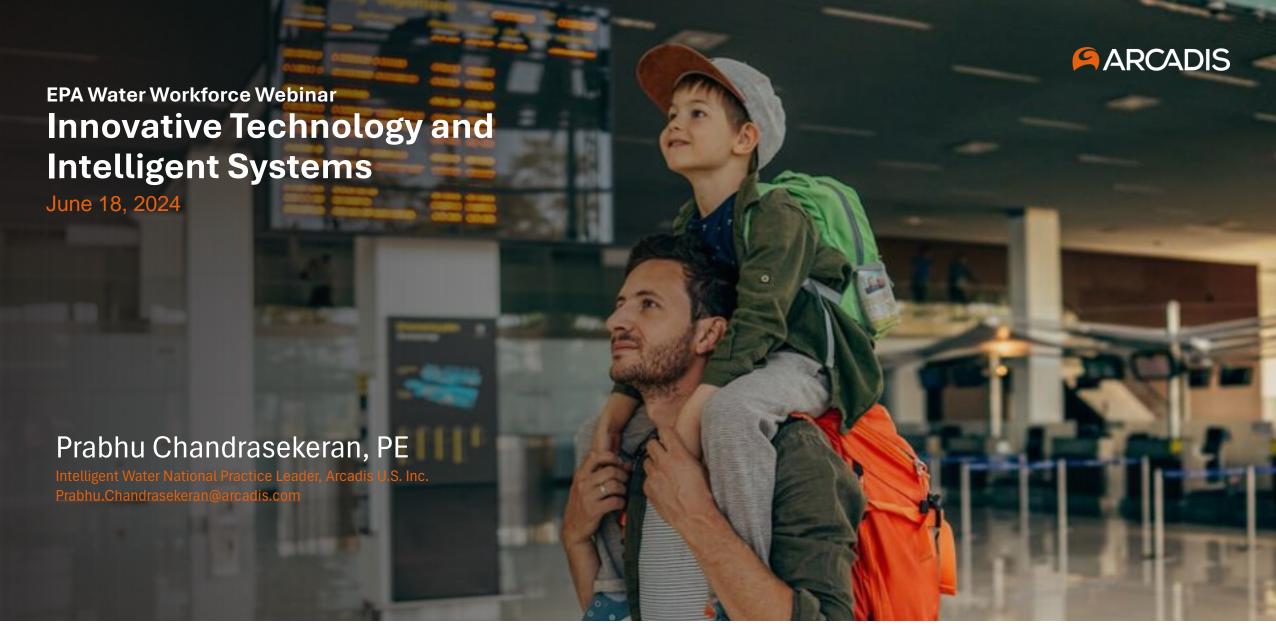


36Years of Excellence



AWARDS

-US muni bond











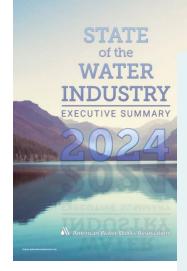






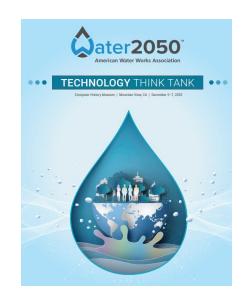
Charting the Future of Water Industry in response to current and emerging trends





Innovation	Ranking
A secure cyber culture	Very Important
Adoption and advancement of new technologies	Very Important
A technology-savvy workforce	Very Important
Investment in innovation	Important
Expanded data network technology	Important
Advancements in material science	Important
Fit-for-purpose treatment technologies	Important
Generative artificial intelligence	Slightly Important
Robotics	Not Important
Augmented reality technologies	Not Important

Source: American Water Works Association



"Let's create a structure and culture that embraces innovation and technology."

"Younger water professionals need inspiration for the industry to grow."

"The key takeaway is accessibility – making this technology accessible to all communities."

"Currently rollout of new cybersecurity technologies takes three to four years. This must speed up."

"Technology is moving at a pace that we cannot keep up with ... Structural changes and cultural changes are needed."

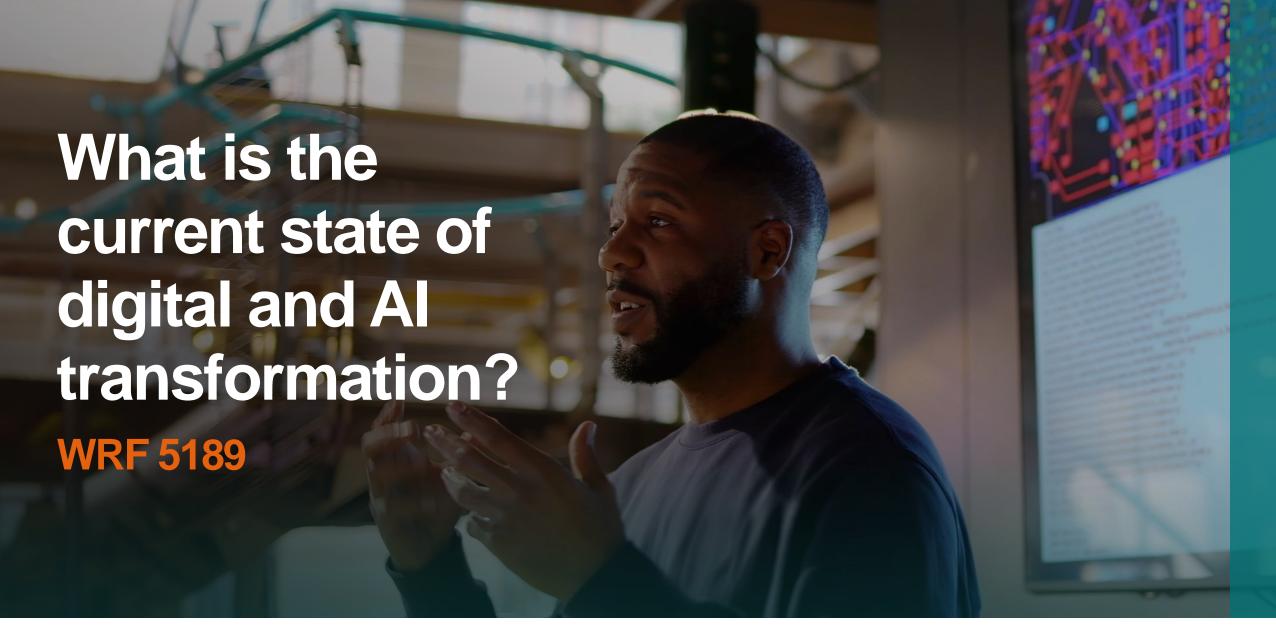


Digital and AI Transformation is fundamentally about people and organizational transformation and the process of innovating (finding new ways of working) by continuously applying technology at scale for better business outcomes and experiences.



Preparing the Water Sector to Embrace Technology: Skillsets and Enterprise Management Approaches for the Digital Age (Water Research Foundation Project 5178)

Quantifying the Impact of Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning-Based Approaches to Utility Performance
(Water Research Foundation Project 5189)

















How can we advance the application of Digital/Al?



Objectives

The purpose of this project is to survey the water industry and identify the use cases for artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning (ML), quantify their benefits, and provide a framework for others to be able to make the same assessments about potential applications of their own. This project will demystify AI/ML and increase its adoption where it is appropriate.

Approach

1. Current State Assessment –

Assess the current trends with AI/ML, conduct surveys/interviews with utilities/vendors to identify outcomes, metrics, and lessons learned.

- 2. Framework development --
 - Develop a web-based framework to assess the relevance, readiness, planning, and implementation of projects requiring AI/ML technologies
- Framework demonstration and Al/ML implementation – Match utilities with vendors by use case, demonstrate the framework, and implement Al/ML solutions at a subset of utilities.

Project Team

Principal Investigator:

Prabhu Chandrasekaran¹, PE

Co-Principal Investigators:

Katya Bilyk², PE Dr. Sunil Sinha³

Project Team:

Arcadis¹, Hazen and Sawyer², Virginia Tech SWIM Center³, Bluefield Research. Other technical advisors include Jim Cooper, Esteban Azagra, Dax Blake, Ben Stanford, Christopher Miller, Jose Porro and Oliver Grievson.

Partnering Utilities:



GLWA contributed \$50K Cash

Partnering Vendors:

Aquasuite
Blue Conduit
Cobaltwater
Confluency
DHI
Dynamita

Fontus Blue

HydroDigital

Hyfi Kando

Maia

Neer

Optimatics

SewerAl

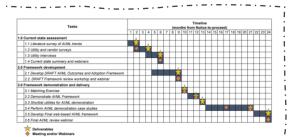
Trinnex

Application Potential & Benefits

We will assemble for the first time, a list of all available academic, vendor, and independently developed AI/ML solutions by use case. The AI/ML Outcomes and Adoption Framework will be a first of its kind guidance document for the water industry to assess the relevance, readiness, planning and implementation of AI/ML projects regardless of the size and the digital maturity of the organization.

Schedule

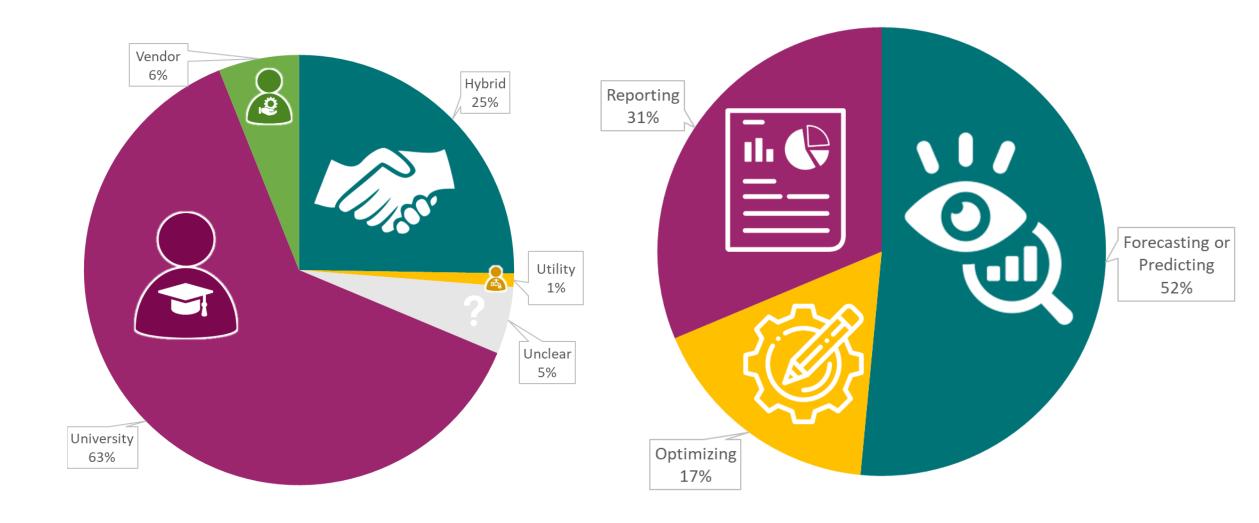
18 Months



¹Arcadis, ²Hazen, ³Virginia Tech, and Bluefield Research

What did we learn from Literature Review?

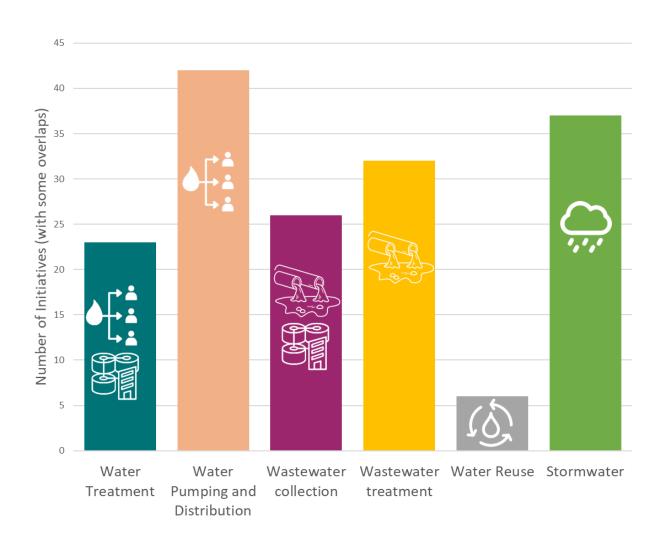






What did we learn from Literature Review?





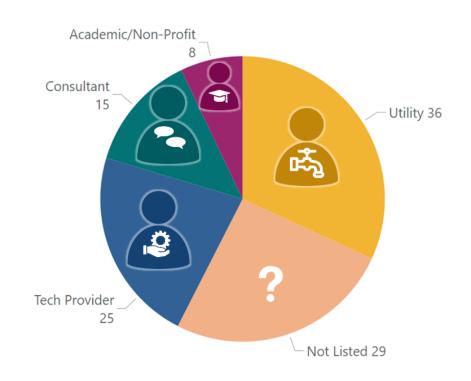
- Several initiatives interact with multiple asset systems
- Water pumping and distribution is most common
- Water reuse is least common
- Wastewater collection and stormwater frequently overlap



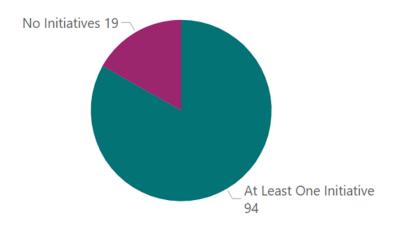
What did we learn from Industry Survey?



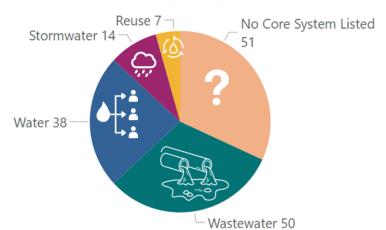
Responses by Organization Type



Responses by Initiative Pursuit



Initiatives by Core System









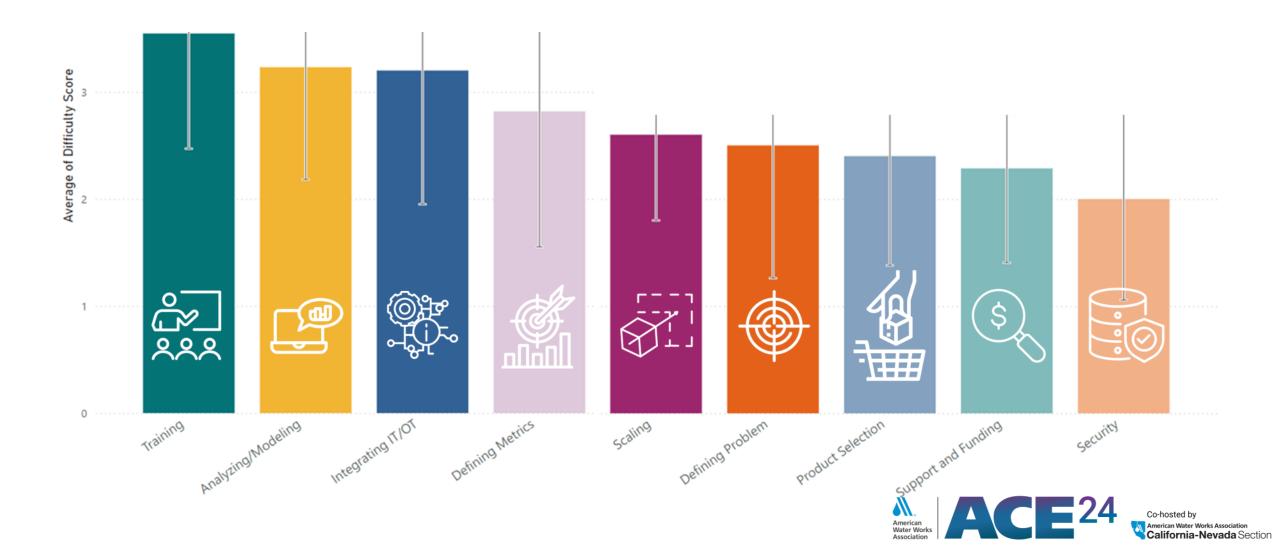






Training, analyzing/modeling, and integrating IT/OT cause difficulty,

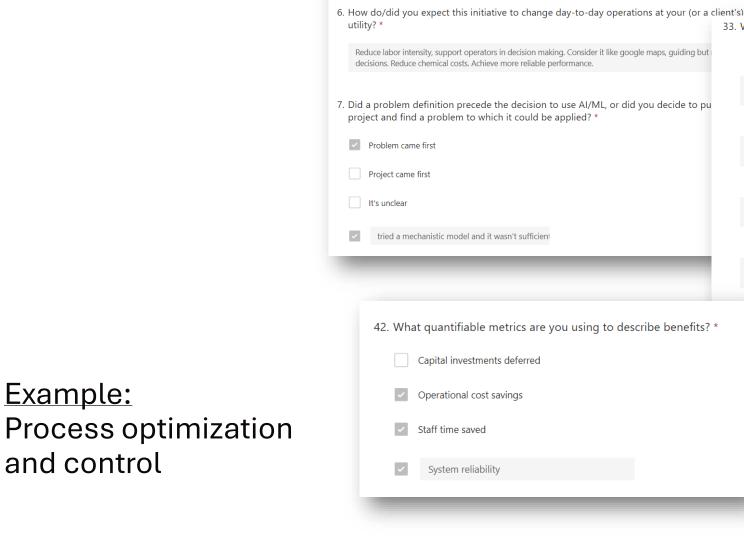




Interviewing early adopters!

Example:

and control



5. Why did you pursue this initiative? *

design, but not for operation/optimization.

your problem statement?

What challenges were you hoping to solve? How does the initiative align with your strategic goals? What is/was

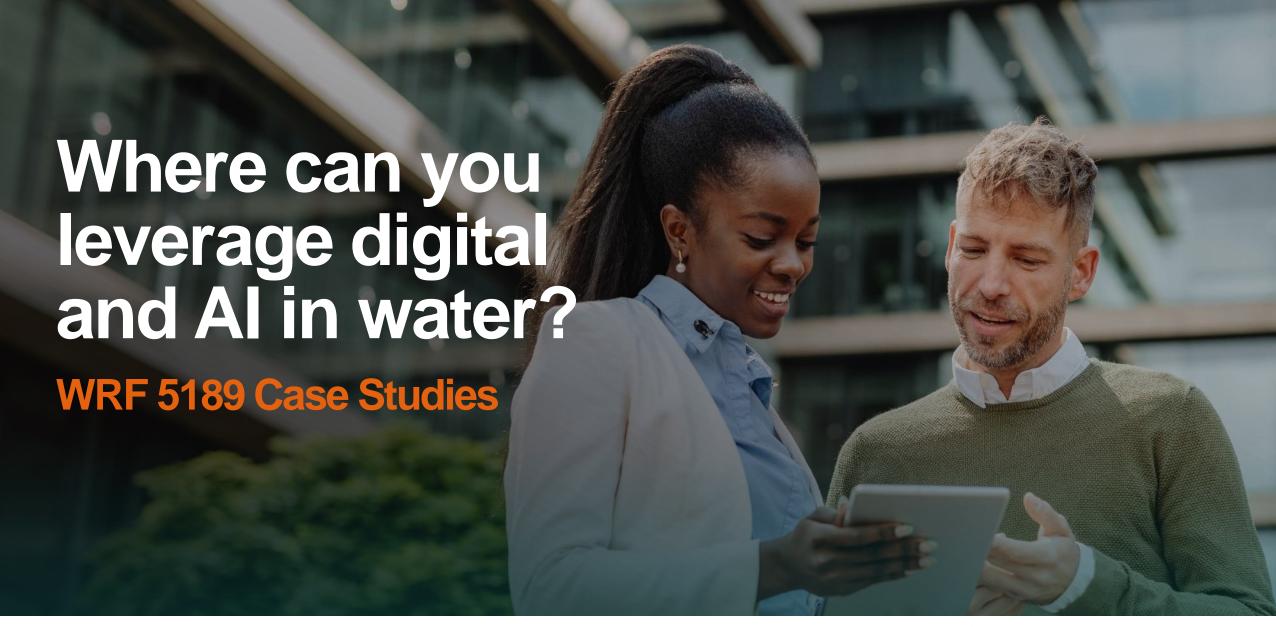
The initiative is aimed at reducing operator labor; hand-sampling 5-6 times per day is labor-intensive. The new process, with sensors and a data-driven model saves a lot of time and effort. The mechanistic model previously used was not sensitive enough to capture the highly dynamic changes in the system. Mechanistic models are good for



what has your experience with these challenges been?				
	Haven't Attempted	Negligible Difficulty	Some Difficulty	Extreme Difficulty
Defining problem	\bigcirc		\circ	\circ
Support and funding	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		\bigcirc
Product selection	\circ		\circ	\circ
Analyzing and modeling	\bigcirc	\bigcirc		\bigcirc
Integrating IT/OT	\circ	\circ	\circ	
Security	\bigcirc	\circ		\bigcirc
Scaling	0	0	0	
Training	0	\circ	•	0

















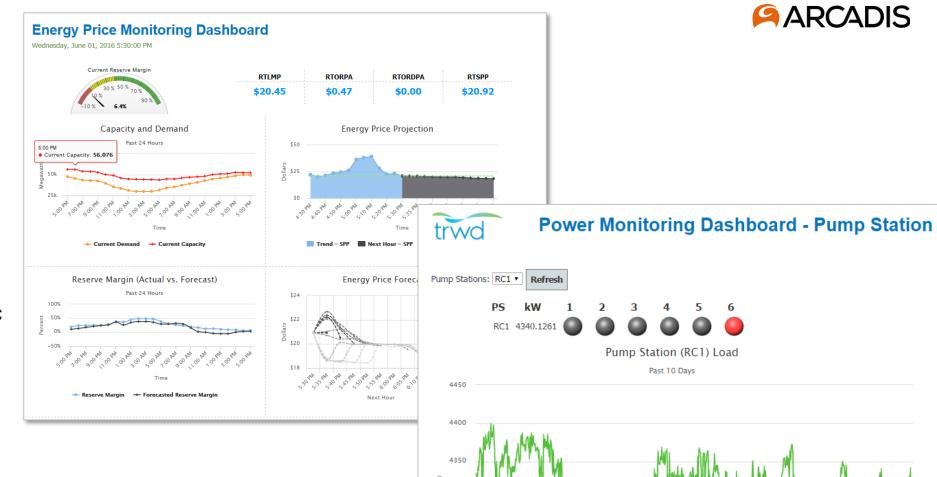




Case Study 1:

Energy Management System

- Optimize Operation of Assets for Energy Consumption using Machine Learning
- Data Warehouse of Operational and Public Data
- Decision Support Tool for Operational Scenario Planning



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Current Load

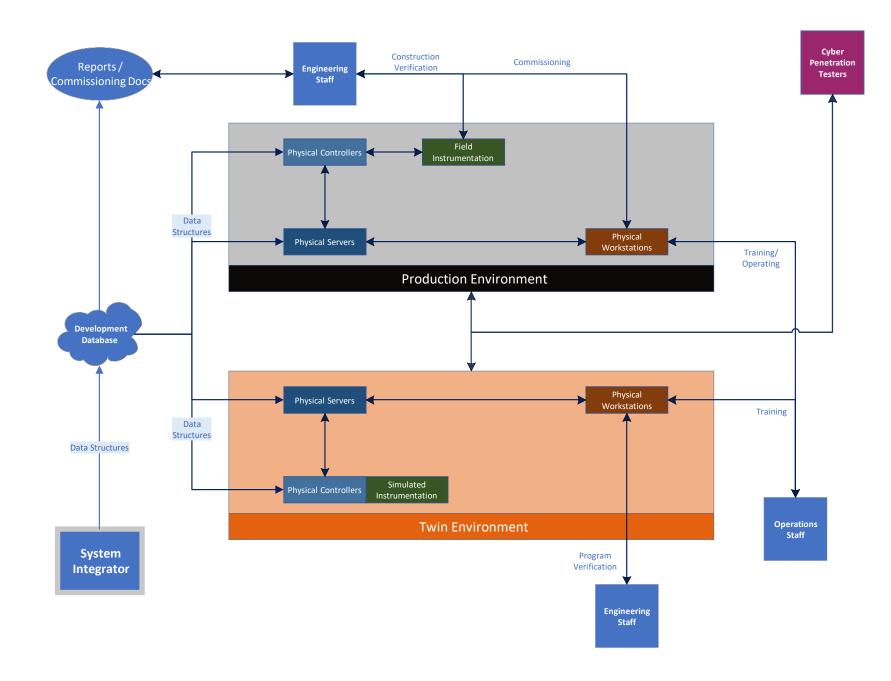
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Case Study 2: Water Treatment Process Twins

- New treatment plant
- Replicate a version of process control
- Testing operational changes
- Training operators

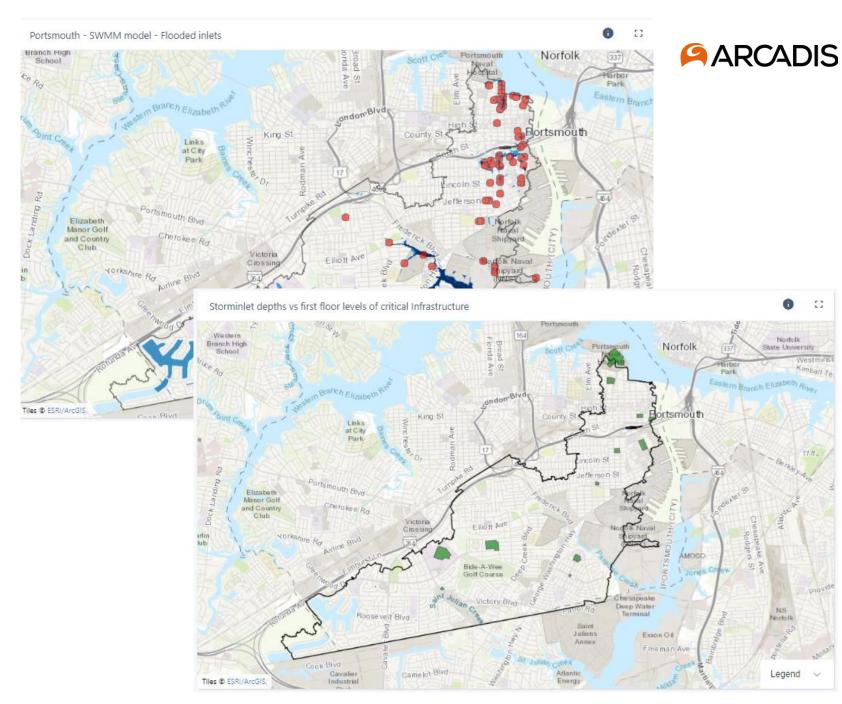


Case Study 3: Watershed and stormwater management

- Real-time digital twin of the stormwater system
- Maintain readiness and mobilize resources during extreme weather conditions
- Integrate observational data, forecasts, machine learning algorithms, and a real-time mechanistic EPA-SWMM model

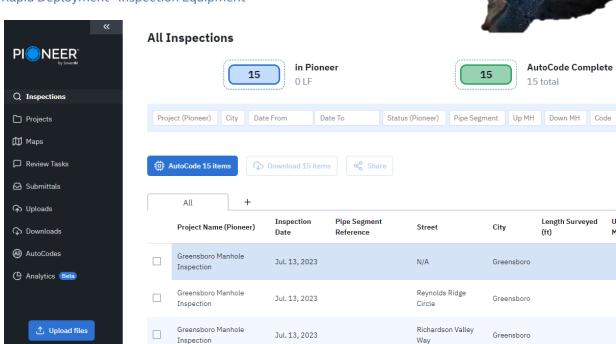








Complete "Rapid Deployment" Inspection Equipment



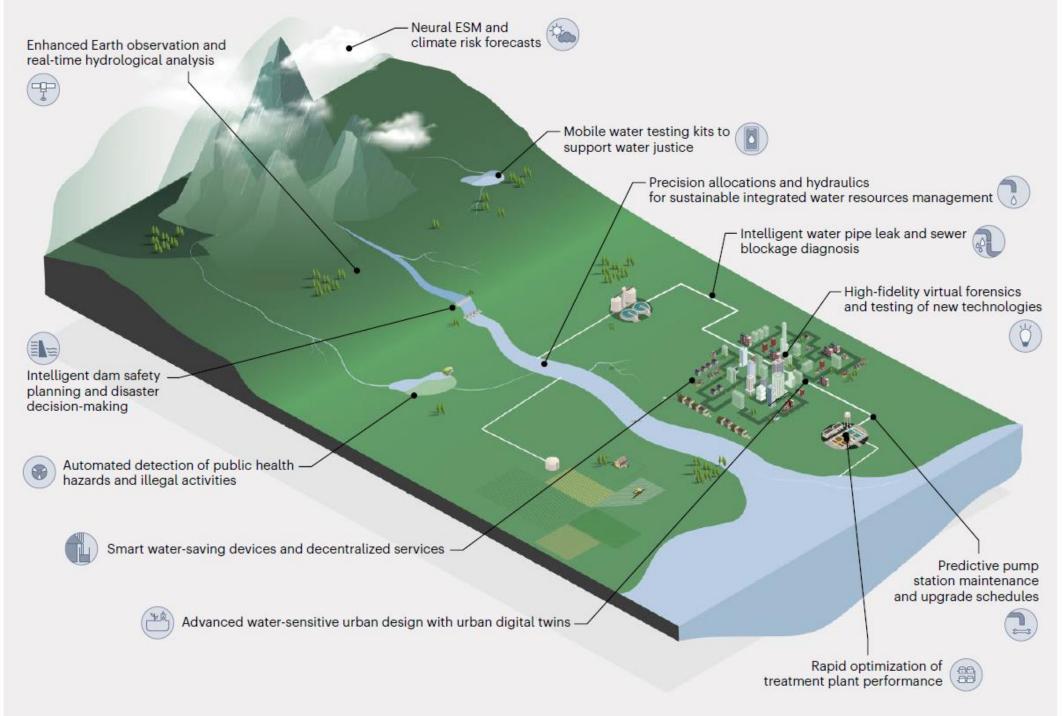
AutoCode Complete

Upstream



Case Study 4: Rapid deployment of CCTV and AIdrive PCCP coding

- Portable CCTV **Inspection Units**
- Panoramic camera w/ virtual pan and tilt
- Defect coding using Al software (Sewer Al)
- Fast tracked manhole (utility entry) inspections
- Inspections completed in a fraction of the time and cost vs traditional MACP approach





Where else can you leverage digital and Al?

Copilots - Lots of claims and promises!



How gen AI can help amplify industrial efforts

Carefully curated AI, when integrated on a comprehensive industrial automation platform, will accelerate the way users develop, deploy and optimize manufacturing and processing operations.

Schneider Electric drives Generative Al productivity and sustainability solutions by integrating Microsoft Azure OpenAl

ABB and Microsoft collaborate to bring generative AI to Generations

Generative artificial intelligence takes Siemens' predictive maintenance solution to the next level

- Enhancing proven machine learning capabilities with generative AI creates a robust, comprehensive predictive maintenance solution that leverages the strengths of both
- Using a conversational user interface, manufacturers can take proactive actions easily, saving both time and resources.
- New generative Al functionality in Senseye Predictive Maintenance makes predictive maintenance conversational.

Beckhoff Previews LLM AI Integration in TwinCAT

An early preview of Beckhoff's forthcoming TwinCAT Chat Client, which leverages the power of LLMs like ChatGPT, shows how the artificia intelligence technology can be used to simplify and accelerate the programming of automated systems.

Note: We are not recommending any one product or solution. News headlines are used to create awareness of trends in the use of Generative AI in industrial process control

1. Operator Assistance for Situational Awareness

Scenario: Real-time Operational Support

Objective:

Help operators understand and respond to various water system events more effectively.

Implementation:

- Data Integration: Combine data from SCADA systems, sensor networks, and historical records.
- LLM Deployment: Integrate Janet with a text-based interface to interact with operators.

Example Interaction:

- 1. **Operator Command:** "What maintenance actions are recommended for the East Reservoir next month?"
- 2. Janet Response: "Based on the data, the East Reservoir has shown signs of increased sedimentation and minor structural stress. It's recommended to perform sediment removal and a structural integrity check. Last maintenance was performed 11 months ago, and similar conditions suggest this action could prevent future issues."



Example Interaction:

- 1. **Operator Command:** "Hey Janet, what is the current status of pump station 3?"
- 2. Janet Response: "Pump station 3 is operating at 75% capacity with a slight increase in pressure detected over the last 10 minutes. Would you like to see the detailed pressure trend or check for potential issues?"
- 3. **Operator Command:** "Show me the pressure trend and check for potential issues."
- 4. Janet Response: "Here is the pressure trend for the last 24 hours. There is an anomaly detected that could indicate a blockage forming. I recommend scheduling a maintenance check."

More Copilots in the Future

Application of Generative AI for O&M

or an intern or junior engineer requiring supervision



Project Preparing the Water Sector to Embrace Technology: Skillsets and Enterprise Management Approaches for the Digital Age



Objectives

The project will develop a framework, that helps utilities of all sizes, including rural systems, that prepares the utility workforce with necessary skills, policies, procedures, and tools to make better decisions today for a more efficient, resilient, equitable, and sustainable tomorrow and improving the experiences of utility personnel, customers, and communities using technology.

Approach

- Current State Assessment Assess trends with digital transformation, conduct surveys and interviews with utilities, vendors, and students to understand their culture, technological, process, reskilling, upskilling needs of water workforce.
- Framework development Develop a web-based framework to assess organizational readiness for digital transformation and develop effective processes including reskilling and upskilling for the Digital Age.
- Framework demonstration and Delivery – Test the readiness with utilities and their ability to create roadmaps for preparing their organization and its people for Digital Age.

Project Team

Principal Investigator:

Prabhu Chandrasekaran, PE

Co-Principal Investigators:

Jason Carter, PE

Project Team:

Other technical advisors include Lisa Thompson (WEF), Barbara Martin (AWWA), Adam Tank (Transcend), Chris Miller (University of Akron), Kristan VandenHeuvel (TWT), Catherine Curtis (SFPUC & Baywork), Stephanie Corso (Rogue Water), Shirley Ben-Dak (SWAN), Adam Krantz (NACWA), Al Cho (Xylem), Christopher Gasson (GWI)

Partnering Utilities:

























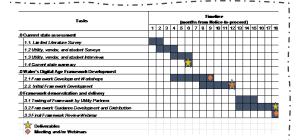
WATER



We will create for the first time a framework with a strong focus on enabling and empowering Water Workforce through reskilling and upskilling for age of digital/Al supported by policies and processes necessary for effective governance and delivery of digital transformation programs. In addition, this project will create a guidance for the effective use of this framework in conjunction with other ones developed under WRF 4097 (Innovation), WRF 5039, WRF 5189 (AI/ML), and WEF's WISE (Business Process centric)..

Schedule

18 Months



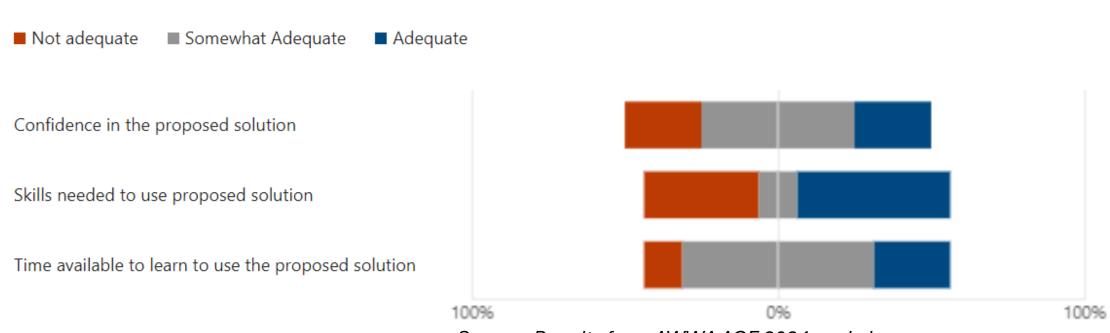


Target team (primary beneficiaries) and support team capacity, capability, confidence, and competence



21. Assess the **Target Team** for their **readiness** to embrace the proposed analytics, AI/ML, and decision support system.

More Details

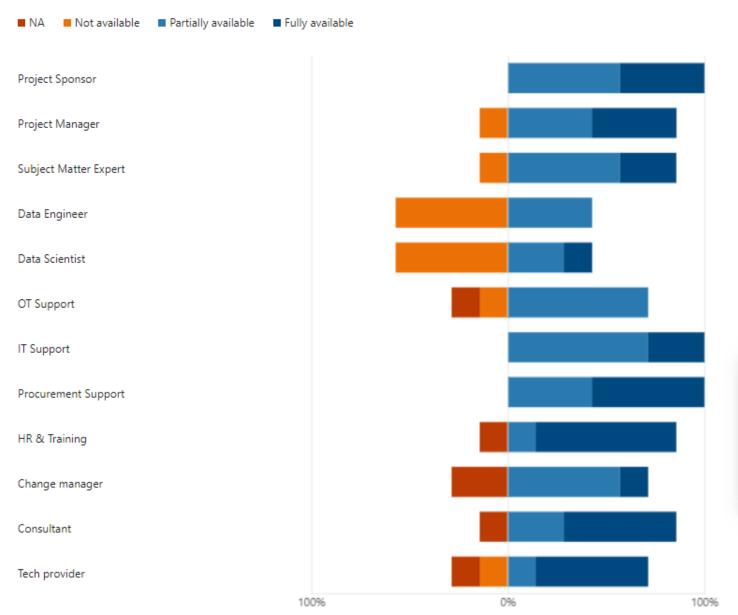


Source: Results from AWWA ACE 2024 workshop

 Assess the Support Team for their availability and readiness to manage the delivery of proposed solution.

More Details





Target teams and support team capacity, capability, confidence, and competence

Send individuals to training, hire a consultant to help you implement, purchase the proper equipment

Change Manager, Consultant, Tech Provider, OT Support

Not having data engineers and scientists in the team

Leadership buy-in. Skilled staff.

Source: Results from AWWA ACE 2024 workshop

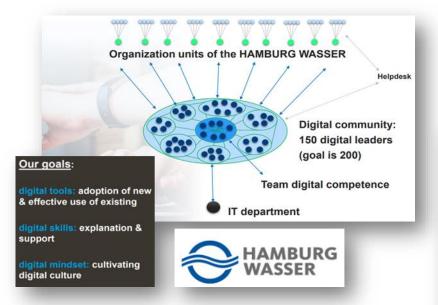
How can we prepare the workforce for Digital and AI?





Project PLURALSIGHT Management Institute. 1420 hours of total **85** completed certifications view time 3.51 average days to 162 skill ups 258 complete 30% Average skill participants Median of 3 days growth 100% test to pass rate Nearing 20/20/20/20 skill distribution **50 Official** 3 month self-learning **Certified Citizen Dev Champions** program **Participants** Enthusiasm to continue, lean and grow within Arcadis is enormous.

How can we prepare the organization for Digital and AI?











How can we prepare the organization for

Digital and AI?

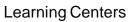




















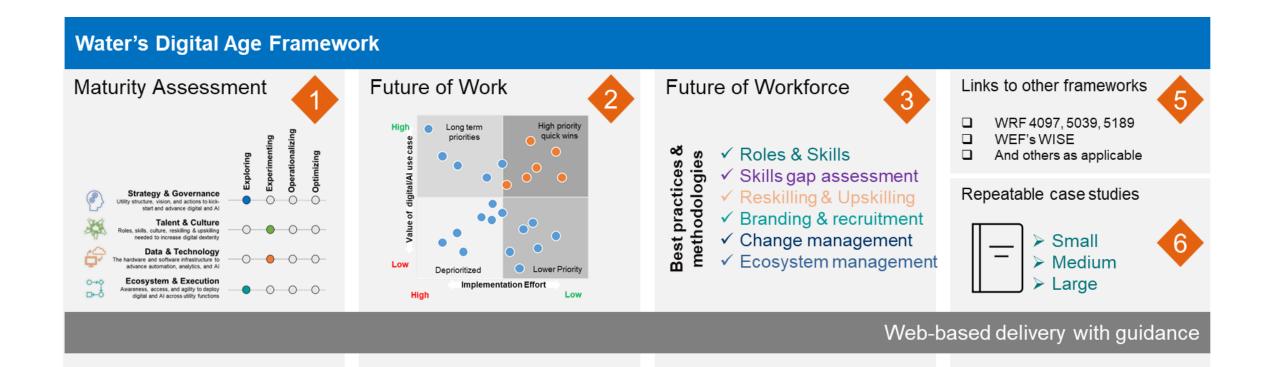






Project Preparing the Water Sector to Embrace Technology: Skillsets and Enterprise Management Approaches for the Digital Age

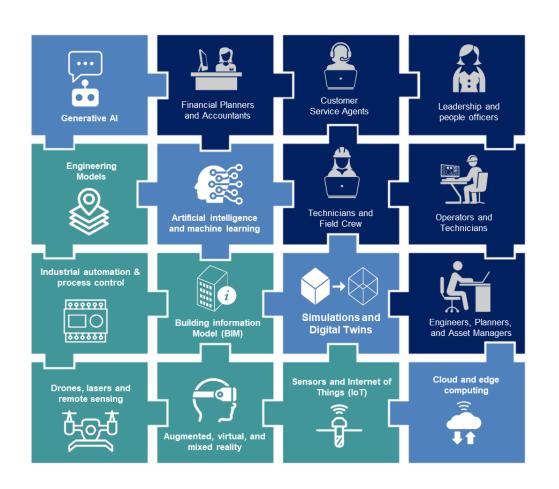






Digital and AI show value and are worth exploring, but requires non-tech elements for sustainable results











Improve resiliency and environmental protection Cost savings and economic benefits

Better, faster analysis and improve decision making



Improve user experience



Better data management



Workforce enablement

Technology is evolving exponentially and changing our world at an ever-accelerating pace but also offering opportunities to empower our workforce

Thank you!

Prabhu Chandrasekeran, PE Intelligent Water National Practice Lead prabhu.chandrasekeran@arcadis.com "We welcome your participation to be part of this research project"





Q&A Session

Webinar slides and recording will be sent to registrants in the next week.



Closing Poll

On a scale of 1-10, with 10 being the best score and 1 being the worst, how would you rate today's webinar?

Thank you!













