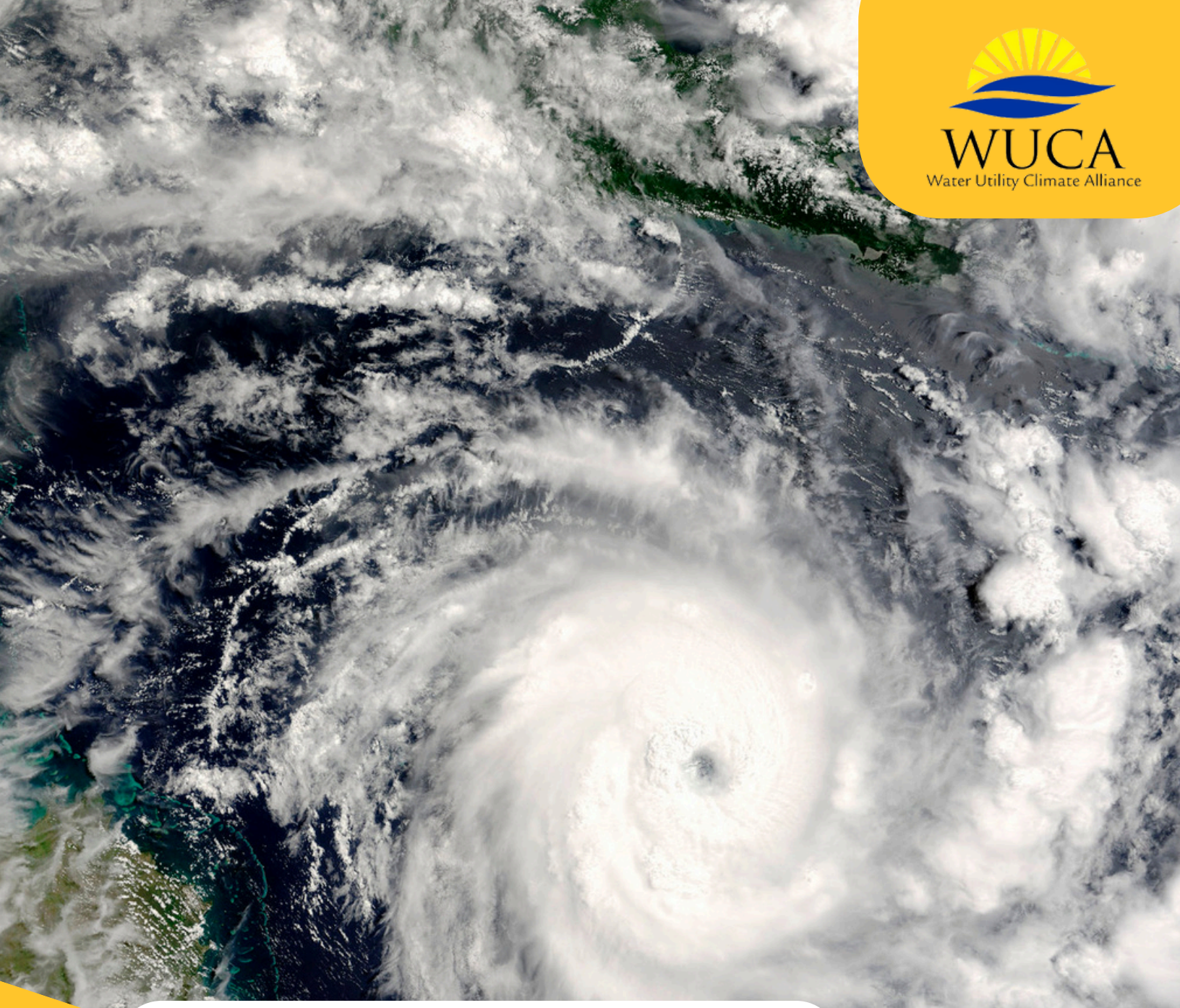


WUCA
Water Utility Climate Alliance

2025 Water Utility Climate Alliance Annual Report

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

This report documents the Water Utility Climate Alliance's major accomplishments of 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE STAFF CHAIR & VICE CHAIR

We are pleased to present our 2025 WUCA Annual Report, and, as we transition leadership in 2026, we are extremely proud of all the coalition has achieved this year and honored to have had the opportunity to lead such a talented and committed group of climate utility professionals. In 2026, we look forward to welcoming our new leadership, Denver Water and Seattle Public Utilities, and supporting WUCA's critical work to drive innovation and key advancements in the water utility and climate resiliency space. Recently, we completed our "Planning Ahead for 20 Years of WUCA" project to usher in a new decade of WUCA and inform our upcoming Strategic Plan as we approach this momentous anniversary. As we convened this year in Austin, Texas for our annual General Managers' Business Meeting, we were solemnly reminded of the urgency to prepare for natural disasters like the tragic floods that struck Central Texas in July. While we cannot implement protection strategies for every scenario that we might face in the future, we are cognizant of the need to incorporate robust preparedness measures into our planning processes, our design standards, and our organizational cultures. We will continue to advance our work to help WUCA utilities and others implement effective resiliency strategies on a utility-wide scale.

In addition to the "20 Years of WUCA" project, we've been working on many other exciting initiatives this year. Our WUCA-funded projects include: Climate Resilient Engineering Design Guidance for the Water Sector; Purpose Driven Climate Data Selection and Application: Case studies for Water Managers, Planners, and Modelers; Coastal Resilience Practitioner Training; Assessing Existing and Potential Applications of DMDU at WUCA Utilities; and Leveraging Climate Modeling to Produce Future Precipitation Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Curves. We also continue collaboration on externally funded projects like Evaluating the Impact of Case Studies in Climate Adaptation Decision Support, and committees that advance our work and understanding on topics such as Tools & Technology, Climate Finance Risk, Water Equity, and Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

We are thrilled to present this summary of our 2025 activities and are so proud of WUCA and all that the Alliance has accomplished. Thank you for your continued contributions to WUCA's success.

Alan Cohn

Staff Chair, WUCA

Senior Policy & Science Advisor

NYC Department of Environmental Protection

Julia Rockwell

Staff Vice-Chair, WUCA

Climate Adaptation & Watershed Protection Manager

Philadelphia Water Department

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) identifies projects that meet priorities outlined in its current Strategic Plan. After drafting project scopes and budgets, staff conduct a project prioritization exercise based on the following criteria:

1. The Alliance's current strategic priorities;
2. Value added to individual WUCA utilities;
3. Staff time available to execute the project; and
4. Available budget.

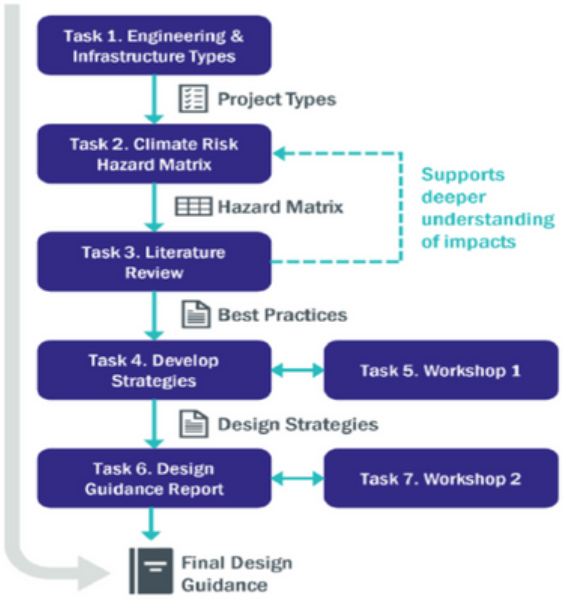
This process leads to the development of a work plan and budget that are presented to WUCA executives for approval at the annual General Managers' Business Meeting. Project managers lead projects and facilitate committees to implement and execute projects. This report documents WUCA's 2025 accomplishments and the next steps for key projects.

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

CLIMATE RESILIENT ENGINEERING DESIGN GUIDANCE FOR THE WATER SECTOR

Project Managers: *Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water) and Ashley Ebrahimi (Philadelphia Water Department)*
Committee: *Tsega Anbessie (PWD), Keely Brooks (SNWA), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Elise Guinee-Cooper (PWB), Kavita Heyn (PWB), Lauren King (Austin Water), Sami Korpelainen (CAP), Allison Lau (PWD), Miles Mayhew (SPU), Amy Motzny (NYCDEP), Marina Stern (NYCDEP); Nicole Smith and Beihua Page from King County Wastewater Treatment Division; Kate Carone and Nishant Parulekar from Portland Bureau of Environmental Services*

In 2024, WUCA created a committee to develop climate resilient design guidance strategies for a range of utility engineering, infrastructure, and capital projects. In January 2025, the committee interviewed respondents to a Request for Proposals and selected Brown and Caldwell (BC) as the project consultant. This partnership is particularly exciting since BC has contributed over $244,000 of in-kind funds, which allowed the full project scope to be addressed.



Graphic Credit: Brown & Caldwell

Engineering & Infrastructure Project Types

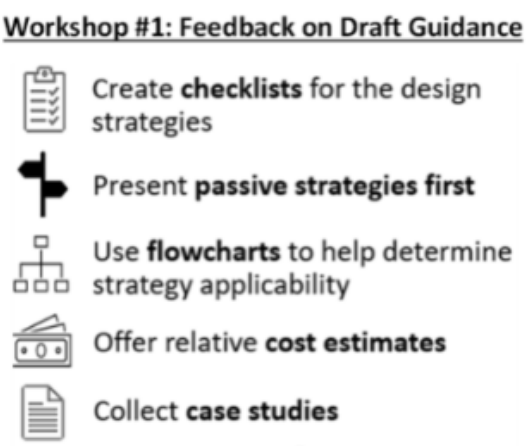
BC's first task was to finalize a list of 5 to 10 engineering and infrastructure project types for the guidance to address. For the selection process, BC used weighted criteria with the highest weights going to projects with the greatest amount of shared interest, insufficient existing guidance, and high criticality, such as level of service impacts. BC worked with the committee to complete a Climate Risk Hazard Matrix and a Literature Review, which also informed the project type selection. The final list of eight project types allows for a comprehensive evaluation of cross-sector applicability, interdependencies, and geographic impact.

Selected Project Types & Climate Hazards for the Guidance to Address	
1	Mitigate impacts to building mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation equipment (*incl. telemetry*) from extreme heat
2	Power Outage Resilience (*extreme cold, extreme heat, extreme storms, wildfire*)
3	Mitigate impacts to building mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation equipment (*incl. telemetry*) from extreme cold
4	Adapt wet wells and structural components for sea level rise and riverine flooding resilience
5	Mitigate impacts to building mechanical, electrical, and instrumentation equipment (*incl. telemetry*) from flooding (*Extreme Precipitation, Riverine Flooding, SLR*)
6	Adapting SW / WW Outfalls (*tide gates, regulator chambers, flap gates, etc.*) to manage inundation from riverine flooding and storm surge
7	Adapt wastewater infrastructure to manage increased wet weather flows from extreme precipitation
8	Adapt chemical storage facilities to manage extreme heat

Workshops for Project Input

The first workshop, held July 15, 2025, focused on receiving input from utility engineering, operations, and design staff on the draft strategies developed for the first two project types. The attendees (approximately 50 utility staff members, in total) offered feedback on the structure logic of these strategies, how they fit within their utility design practices, and whether they contain an adequate level of detail.

They discussed the importance of considering operational functionality early on in design and of ensuring Operations and Maintenance staff are integrated into the process. Participants felt it was important to incorporate flow diagrams and checklists to ease implementation of the design strategies within utility workflows, as well as facilitate knowledge transfer through case studies and learning exchanges. They also emphasized the need for maintaining a flexible process to allow the guidance to evolve over time.

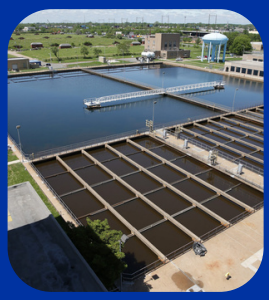


BC incorporated workshop feedback into the initial set of strategies. They developed templates for the remaining project types ahead of the final two workshops. One of those took place in October 2025 and the other will be scheduled for early 2026. The committee anticipates wrapping up this project by Spring 2026. Looking forward, WUCA will continue to collaborate with BC on the project's next phase, which focuses on developing strategies to successfully integrate climate resilient design guidance into water utility planning and design processes.

PURPOSE DRIVEN CLIMATE DATA SELECTION AND APPLICATION: CASE STUDIES FOR WATER MANAGERS, PLANNERS, AND MODELERS

Project Managers: *Keely Brooks (Southern Nevada Water Authority), Nolie Templeton (Central Arizona Project)*
Case Study Participants: *Ben Beal (PWB), Kavita Heyn (PWB), Allison Lau (PWD), Tsega Anbessi (PWD), Julia Rockwell (PWD), Ashley Ebrahimi (PWD), Seevani Bista (SDCWA), Anjuli Corcovelos (SDCWA), Brooke Stemple (SNWA), Deena Hannoun (SNWA), Eunice Ledres (SNWA)*
Consultants/Primary Authors: *Jeff Lukas (Lukas Climate Research and Consulting & Aspen Global Change Institute), Julie Vano (Aspen Global Change Institute)*

The Purpose-Driven Climate Data Selection and Application project was launched to document how water utilities select, tailor, and apply climate data to inform critical planning and decision-making. The effort aims to produce 4–8 case studies illustrating effective practices across a range of contexts, with lessons for both WUCA members and the broader water sector. To date, the project has drafted the first set of three case studies. The three case studies, data selection and decision challenge are summarized below, followed by emerging cross-cutting themes.



Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) responded to Hurricane Ida's severe flooding in 2021 with a rapid, lower-cost non-tidal riverine flooding risk analysis. Using CMIP5-LOCA-VIC hydrologic projections under RCP8.5, PWD developed decadal change factors to adjust FEMA flood elevations and inform design standards. The results directly supported critical capital decisions, including whether to retrofit or relocate the Belmont Pump Station and the planned replacement of the Queen Lane Water Treatment Plant, while also informing neighborhood-scale flood resilience planning.

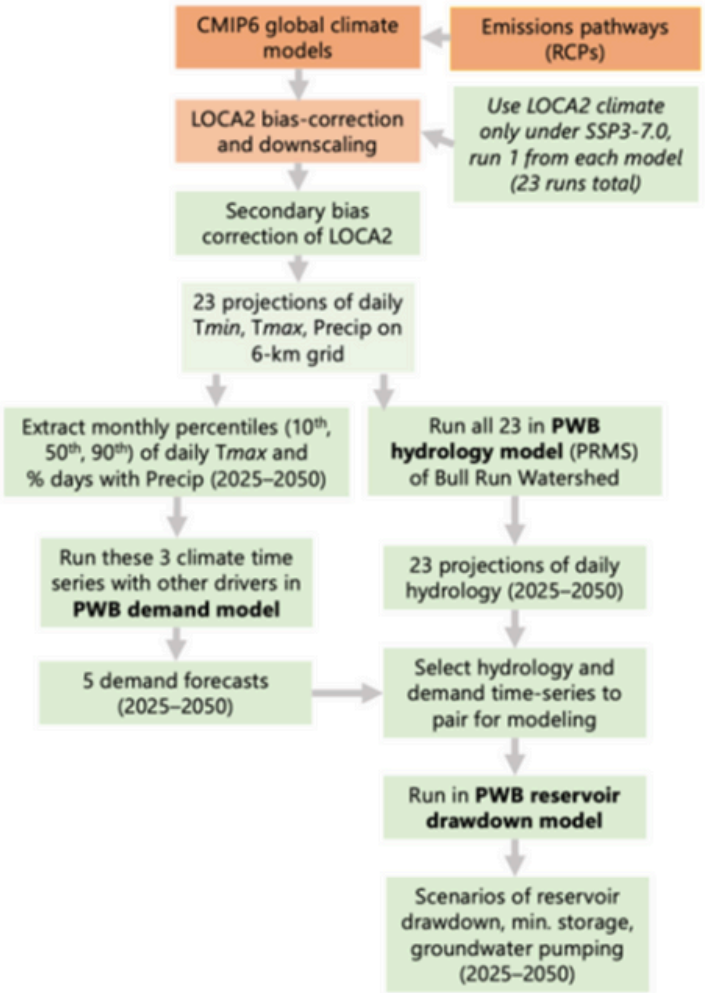
Portland Water Bureau (PWB) initiated its first five-year adaptive planning update, part of a continuous cycle designed to adjust to new information and climate uncertainty. PWB is applying CMIP6 LOCA2 projections (SSP3-7.0) within a chain of models that includes a hydrologic model (PRMS), a new demand model, and a reservoir drawdown tool. This framework translates climate futures into operational metrics such as groundwater pumping days, reservoir storage thresholds, and seasonal supply reliability, supporting infrastructure prioritization, financial planning, and resource management decisions.

San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) is updating its long-range water demand projections using CMIP6 LOCA2-Hybrid data optimized for California. Sector-specific water demand models (residential, commercial, agricultural) capture how climate variables—such as maximum daily temperature and precipitation—affect demand differently. These climate-adjusted demand scenarios are being incorporated into SDCWA's Urban Water Management Plan and its decadal Master Plan scenario planning, helping to test system resilience under multiple futures.

Across the case studies, several themes are emerging:

- **Data Selection Matters:** Utilities are carefully weighing dataset strengths (e.g., LOCA2-Hybrid for California, LOCA2 for extremes in the PNW, VIC hydrology products for Philadelphia) and tailoring choices to their planning questions.
- **Capacity Building:** Both in-house expertise (Portland) and strategic consultant partnerships (Philadelphia, San Diego) have proven effective for embedding climate science into planning.
- **Decision Relevance:** Translating climate data into familiar operational or financial metrics (e.g., flood elevations, groundwater pumping days, demand forecasts) has been key to organizational uptake.
- **Uncertainty Management:** Utilities are explicitly addressing uncertainty by using ensembles, scenario planning, or conservative assumptions aligned with risk tolerance.

The second set of case studies, planned to be completed in Spring 2026, will expand the geographic diversity and address additional water management challenges such as stormwater and water quality.



Schematic of the chain of models approach for PWB's Adaptive Planning 2025 Supply and Demand Forecasting. Orange shading indicates data and processing completed by others prior to PWB's analyses. Green shading indicates the steps performed by PWB.

COASTAL RESILIENCE PRACTITIONER TRAINING, PART OF WUCA'S CLIMATE RESILIENCE TRAININGS

Project Manager : *David Behar (San Francisco Public Utilities Commission)*

The Coastal Resilience Practitioner Training project is the latest in WUCA's long and successful history of adaptation practitioner trainings. WUCA provided seed funding to this training for U.S. practitioners, which is being led by the Practitioner Exchange for Effective Response to Sea Level Rise (PEERS), a global community of practice with a focus on rising seas and related coastal hazards. This project includes new curriculum development as coastal resilience was only a minor part of past WUCA trainings and therefore requires a larger budget than prior training activities. In early 2025, the U.S. EPA, previously the largest funder of this training, withdrew its support. With a reduced budget of $80,000 (provided equally by WUCA and NOAA/Adaptation Sciences), PEERS pivoted to an online training approach that could be achieved with fewer resources, supplemented by significant in-kind support from PEERS.

In July, PEERS finalized a contract with ICF, led by Senior Director of Climate Resilience Adam Parris, to lead the curriculum development process. This will include developing the training outline and core content, followed by selection and engagement of trainers who will develop content in consultation with ICF and deliver the training units. Ideally, trainers will be veteran practitioners. Subjects related to coastal adaptation may include climate science translation, decision making under uncertainty, grey, green, and hybrid adaptation solutions, compound flood risk assessment, governance, finance, and community and decision-maker engagement.

The project kicked off in August, with ICF beginning by developing the curriculum informed by a new assessment from PEERS on leading coastal resilience practices in seven regions of the world. ICF will consult with leading practitioners from across the U.S., convened in a Curriculum Advisory Committee, who will provide guidance on key subjects for the training and approaches that can best meet practitioner needs on the ground today. Invitations for this group went out in September with a convening in October. It is anticipated that the training will occur in early 2026.

ASSESSING EXISTING AND POTENTIAL APPLICATIONS OF DMDU AT WUCA UTILITIES

Project Managers: *Alan Cohn (NYCDEP)*
Committee: *Keely Brooks (SNWA), Taylor Winchell (Denver Water), Josh Randall (CAP), Jenny McCarthy (MWDSC), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Julia Rockwell (PWD), Young-Hoon Jin (Austin Water), Nolie Templeton (CAP)*

Over the past two decades, WUCA and many water utilities have carried out valuable work to move beyond traditional water planning. These efforts aim to develop approaches that can better account for uncertainty and support the complexity of decision processes and the many actors involved. Methods for decision-making under deep uncertainty (DMDU) have been given particular attention.

In 2025, WUCA partnered with The Water Institute to develop a guidebook on the potential applications of DMDU methods for water supply, stormwater management, and wastewater management within WUCA utilities. A typical DMDU process is often computationally and analytically intensive. However, while numerical outputs are important, one of the most valuable outcomes of applying DMDU approaches is how it deepens and reshapes understanding of a decision problem. This guidebook aims to bring that dimension to the surface, offering both a starting point and a reference that users can use to situate themselves within a DMDU process, and to reflect on why they are undertaking it.

The guidebook will present real-world applications of DMDU approaches that may correspond to different adaptation action areas. At the core of many DMDU methods (such as Robust Decision Making) are understanding the system and performing tradeoff, vulnerability, and robustness analyses. Some DMDU approaches (such as Dynamic Adaptive Policy Pathways) add an explicit adaptive component. Beyond these components, there are two elements essential to any successful DMDU project:

1. adopting DMDU thinking, which differs from traditional approaches, and
2. communicating the DMDU framing and the results of any DMDU process

Both elements are challenging, but when addressed deliberately, they can facilitate the successful application of DMDU and provide a paradigm shift in the way stakeholders approach short-term and long-term decisions. The guidebook, expected to be completed in early 2026, will guide WUCA members through the applications and benefits of advancing work on DMDU.

PLANNING AHEAD FOR 20 YEARS OF WUCA

Project Managers: *Alan Cohn (NYCDEP) and Julia Rockwell (PWD)*
Committee: *Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Taylor Winchell (Denver Water), Elisia Langdon (NYCDEP), Keely Brooks (SNWA), Nolie Templeton (CAP)*

During the next Strategic Plan cycle (2027-2031), WUCA will celebrate its 20-year anniversary. The coalition is approaching a pivotal stage that warrants an evaluation of where WUCA has been, and where it wants to go moving forward. Preparing for the next iteration of WUCA's Strategic Plan provides an opportunity to reflect on current activities and imagine what can be done in the future to continue solving challenges that align the whole coalition and advance climate adaptation in the water sector.

In 2025, WUCA kicked off the "Planning Ahead for 20 Years of WUCA" project to begin discussions around current and future WUCA priorities and how this work can be effectively accomplished in a changing and uncertain financial and political climate, while considering factors like membership, dues structure, and increasing project costs. The project's central goal is to initiate a multi-phase effort that will culminate in development of WUCA's 2027-2031 Strategic Plan. In this first year of the project, WUCA selected a consultant, Brown and Caldwell, to work with WUCA staff to review previous WUCA planning materials, identify common themes contributing to the success of WUCA, develop a WUCA member survey, and facilitate interviews with WUCA members to glean insights into how the coalition envisions itself in this next strategic plan.

Brown and Caldwell presented initial observations from this assessment at the October General Managers' meeting. Based on the feedback received at a leadership roundtable, final recommendations were consolidated and documented in a final report that will guide WUCA in the strategic planning process in 2026.

TOOLS & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

Project Manager: *Taylor Winchell (Denver Water)*
Committee: *Keely Brooks (SNWA), Ashley Ebrahimi (PWD), Elise Guinee Cooper (PWB), Nolie Templeton (CAP), Chris Hilton (SPU), Deena Hannoun (SNWA), Ben Beal (PWB), Young-Hoon Jin (Austin Water)*

The Tools and Technology Committee formed in 2025 to address the opportunities and difficulties that come with the plethora of climate adaptation-related tools and technologies that are available for water managers. The committee met multiple times in 2025 to discuss the structure of a portal where WUCAs can share their experience using various climate adaptation tools and technologies. The team iterated on potential topic areas to include in the portal and will work in 2026 to build out the portal as an information-sharing tool for WUCAs.

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF CASE STUDIES IN CLIMATE ADAPTATION DECISION SUPPORT

Project Managers: *Josh Randall (CAP) and Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water)*
Committee: *Julia Rockwell (PWD), Alan Cohn (NYCDEP), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Keely Brooks (SNWA)*

WUCA is working with the Aspen Global Change Institute (ACGI) to help test, validate, and learn from the Alliance's previous work, Leading Practices in Climate Adaptation, a comprehensive and interactive framework of adaptation actions and related utility case study examples that WUCA developed in 2021. In late 2024, AGCI, who developed the initial Leading Practices project for WUCA, received research funding to explore the impact of case studies on climate adaptation implementation. The goals of this research are to identify attributes that make an adaptation case study impactful, investigate the case study development process, and identify what case studies alone cannot achieve.

The project committee met twice this year with Kelli Archie and Julie Vano at AGCI to discuss the scope and interview process before the interview phase began. AGCI conducted group interviews this summer with 35 case-study users/producers and have been coding and analyzing the qualitative data. Using the preliminary results, AGCI initiated a second round of data collection, a survey of a broader group of case-study users and producers.

CLIMATE FINANCE RISK COMMITTEE

Project Managers: *Kavita Heyn (PWB) and Taylor Winchell (Denver Water)*
Committee: *Julia Rockwell (PWD), Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water), Keely Brooks (SNWA), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Tsega Anbessie (PWD), Josh Randall (CAP)*

In 2025, the WUCA Climate Finance Risk Committee discussed the growing body of research and sector interest in how financial institutions, such as creditors, ratings agencies, and insurance companies are evaluating and incorporating climate risks into water utility credit worthiness scores, bond terms, insurance premiums, and more. One such report came out in 2024 from the EPA Climate Finance Working Group, and key members of that working group delivered an engaging and informative roundtable presentation of the results in the 2024 WUCA General Managers' Business Meeting.

Due to federal administration changes that affected how federal agencies interpret climate financial risks in 2025, the WUCA committee could not obtain relevant updates from the EPA on their Climate Finance Working Group second report. Further, the Securities and Exchange Commission moved to freeze its climate disclosure rule from the previous administration which has further muddied the landscape related to climate risk disclosures. Despite these shifts, the committee continued to monitor the climate finance risk landscape, including:

- Ceres, a nonprofit that focuses on sustainability risk, released a new report in April 2025 on incorporating climate risk and resilience in the municipal bond market. It covers where to include climate risk information during the municipal bond process, including in financial statements, bond issuance and official statements, and climate reports.
- Recent news coverage of how big banks and investors are viewing climate risks in the absence of federal climate resources, and how the Los Angeles wildfires led to an awakening of the municipal bond market to climate risk, and a downgrading in credit ratings for LADWP.
- Water Research Foundation's project to 1) complete a comprehensive review and evaluation of the existing state of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices and best practices from across the water sector; 2) develop a robust and tailored ESG framework including metrics specific to water utilities for tracking, reporting, and managing ESG topics; and 3) widely share and communicate project outcomes including utility case studies to increase awareness of ESG. This project, being developed by Jacobs, is nearing a close, and WUCA will plan to organize a learning webinar on this report in 2026.

ADVANCING WATER EQUITY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Project Managers: *Elisia Langdon (NYCDEP) and Allison Lau (PWD)*
Committee: *Amy Motzny (NYCDEP), Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU), Erich Pacheco (PWB), Elise Guinee-Cooper (PWB), Julia Rockwell (PWD), Allison Lau (PWD), Ashley Ebrahimi (PWD), Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water), Marisa Flores Gonzalez (Austin Water), Stephanie Chiorean (PWD), Jenny McCarthy (MWDSC), Carlos Carrillo (MWDSC), Anjuli Corcovelos (SDCWA), and Josh Randall (CAP)*

In 2025, the WUCA Equity Committee built upon prior work conducted in coordination with the US Water Alliance, developing equity Case Studies, a Framework for integration of equity into water and climate work at WUCA member utilities and beyond, and a Roadmap specific to WUCA that lays pathways for WUCA to further develop and integrate equity into its ongoing work.

Work completed in 2025 focused specifically on further development of the WUCA Roadmap, building upon the actions listed in this document to outline initiatives and tasks that WUCA can implement in 2026 and beyond to embed equity into its work. This work culminated in the development of an Equity Action Plan that is being used to inform equity work included in the 2026 workplan.

The committee developed a shortlist of priority actions to develop further from the dozens outlined within the Roadmap by reviewing recommended early wins outlined by the U.S. Water Alliance (USWA) and adding any additional actions that the committee determined to be either high priority or more easily implementable in the near-term. Once the committee determined which actions to carry forward, point people were selected within the committee to begin outlining the initiatives and tasks required to implement these actions.

After defining the required initiatives and tasks, the committee compiled these recommendations into the WUCA Equity Action Plan that outlines work required to implement equity actions as well as “implementation leads” recommending ideal point committees to carry the work forward and in other cases, where recommended initiatives would require new work and oversight.

GREENHOUSE GAS MITIGATION COMMITTEE AND INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA) CLEAN ENERGY TAX CREDITS GUIDANCE

Project Managers: *Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water) and Elise Guinee-Cooper (PWB)*
CCommittee: *Keely Brooks (SNWA), Anjuli Corcovelos (SDCWA), Kavita Heyn (PWB), Liz Crosson (MWDSC), Jennifer McCarthy (MWDSC), Adrian Hightower (MWDSC), Brooks Bolsinger (SPU), Ashima Sukhdev (SPU), Nolie Templeton (CAP), Taylor Winchell (Denver Water)*

In 2024, WUCA contracted with the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies (AMWA) to develop guidance on how public drinking water utilities can benefit from the clean energy investment incentives that are part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022. The IRA extends many clean energy tax credits to tax-exempt entities, including local governments and public utilities, through a mechanism called direct pay. With the direct pay provision, tax-exempt and government entities, including public water utilities, districts, and authorities, can access credits for clean energy producing technologies they employ.

The project's goal was the development of three deliverables -- an overview of the eligible projects, guidance on how to claim credits, and at least one utility case study -- and an informational webinar for the AMWA and WUCA communities. Due to delays in the IRS developing both eligibility requirements for credits and bonuses, and guidance on how to claim credits, the project team finalized the overview and guidance on how to claim the credits in spring 2025. The first deliverable, the IRA Direct-Pay Eligible Clean Energy Tax Credit primer, identified four tax credits that public water systems could benefit from, including the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), the Production Tax Credit (PTC), the Credit for Commercial Clean Vehicles, and the Alternative Fuel Vehicle Refueling Property Credit. The guide also identified the eligibility windows, base credit amounts, and bonus credit eligibilities. The second deliverable, A Guide for Water Systems Claiming Direct Pay for Clean Energy Projects, included step-by-step information that water utilities need to claim and receive direct payments for the credits, including registration with the IRS, documentation requirements, and deadlines.

The July 5, 2025, One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) led to significant restrictions on the eligibility requirements of the four examined tax credit types. Two of the major credits of interest, the ITC and PTC, will remain available through direct pay with some earlier sunset provisions than the IRA had, but with new limitations on the window of eligibility for certain clean energy technologies. Specifically, for projects using solar and wind that are eligible for the ITC and PTC, the OBBA cut eligibility down to projects put in place prior to December 31, 2027, giving water systems only a few more years to benefit from these projects. For all the other eligible clean energy technologies (e.g., biogas, micro and inline hydropower), eligibility and the credits for ITC and PTC remain virtually the same as the IRA. These credits will begin a four-year phase out that begins at whichever date comes later between the following times: beginning in 2032 or the year when the US power sector emissions are 25% of 2022 levels. Credit eligibility for commercial alternative fuel vehicles ended on September 30, 2025, and credit eligibility for alternative fuel vehicle refueling stations will end June 30 of next year. Due to the ongoing restrictions on eligibility for certain technologies and the significant amount of time it takes IRS to develop guidance on the new law's restriction, WUCA utilities, which would have been most likely to benefit from solar and wind energy investments, as well as alternative fuel fleet and charging incentives, chose not to continue with developing a case study and webinar.

MAKING THE CASE FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND SUPPORTING STRATEGIES
(IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WATER RESEARCH FOUNDATION)

Project Managers: *Julia Rockwell (PWD) and Ann Grodnik-Nagle (SPU)*
Committee: *Heather Dalrymple (Austin Water), Alan Cohn (NYDEP), Kavita Heyn (PWB), Carlos Carrillo (MWDSC), Marisa Flores (Austin Water), Taylor Winchell (Denver Water), Keely Brooks (SNWA), Jenny McCarthy (MWDSC), Nolie Templeton (CAP), Julie Padilla (SPU), Allison Lau (PWD), Ashley Ebrahimi (PWD)*

In 2023, WUCA partnered with the Water Research Foundation (WRF) to WUCA to jointly contribute to building out a business case for climate resilient water infrastructure and related policies. The intended outcomes of the project were to:

1. Develop a comprehensive framework to maximize the effectiveness of water utilities' limited resources and ratepayer funds, ensure the long-term sustainability of water services, and promote climate-resilient, multi-beneficial solutions;
2. Advance quantitative approaches to promoting climate-resilient infrastructure and approaches in concert with competing utility objectives; and
3. Enhance utilities' ability to communicate with and engage stakeholders about climate adaptation investments and approaches.

In 2024, following WRF's solicitation process, WRF and WUCA chose a consultant team led by Corvias Infrastructure Solutions. The team has since convened a utility cohort, performed a landscape literature review, and developed the decision-support tool, with input from the utility cohort and WRF Project Advisory Committee members. The team also developed a user guide and case studies demonstrating the application of the tool in four different utilities, including water and stormwater/wastewater utilities. Through this process, they identified optimal portfolios of climate adaptation solutions for the case studies, balancing drinking water and municipal separate sewer system (MS4) compliance targets with cost, other constraints, and co-benefits.

In late August 2025, the team released the interim deliverable, the final Landscape Literature Review, available online through WRF. The consultant team is finalizing its report, and the project is expected to wrap up in December 2025.

LEARNING FROM EACH OTHER

Project Managers: *Chris Hilton (SPU)*
Committee: *Alan Cohn (NYDEP), Julia Rockwell (PWD), Brooks Bolsinger (SPU)*

WUCA continued its virtual learning exchanges with experts and partners in 2025, hosting three virtual sessions on climate adaptation topics. This year, WUCA planned three presentations featuring speakers on a range of topics, including water conservation, demand forecasting, water efficiency planning, and risk management.

In May, WUCA members received a briefing on the Leakage Emissions Initiative (LEI)'s method to quantify avoidable carbon emissions caused by unmanaged leakage and a presentation by Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) on their Water Loss Reduction Program. Attendees learned about the latest best practices for reducing water loss and the associated carbon emissions. As the water and energy nexus is more impactful than ever, these concepts are essential for all water utilities seeking to affect climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

In August, the LFEO webinar featured an overview and highlights from the American Water Works Association (AWWA) recently released Climate Change Demand Forecasting Guidebook and a case study on water efficiency planning from the City of Fort Collins, Colorado.

In October, Allied Public Risk and Brown & Caldwell introduces the Certified Public Risk Officer-Water & Wastewater (CPRO-W2) designation, developed by the American Association of Water Distribution & Management (AAWD&M) and Appalachian State University, which is designed to transform how utilities approach risk by standardizing practices, advancing risk maturity, and aligning operations with financial resilience. This presentation introduced the CPRO-W2 program, explained how its frameworks build on sector-specific best practices, and showed how equipping leaders with a common language of risk can strengthen utility resilience, bolster investor and insurer confidence, and support WUCA's mission of climate-informed decision-making.

WUCA's learning webinars continue to be an opportunity for experts to share knowledge and build networks with engaged climate adaptation leaders in the water sector.

WUCA ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

WUCA's Staff Chair and Vice Chair continued to elevate the importance of adaptation in the water sector throughout 2025 through outreach and engagement across the water sector. In early 2025, WUCA's Staff Chair and Staff Vice Chair shared the WUCA Annual Report with the WUCA Executive Leadership, staff, WUCA Network, and over 50 partners across the water sector, ranging from national and international water sector associations, nonprofits, and federal agencies. Additionally, WUCA, with support from AMWA, developed its first LinkedIn page, which quickly gathered followers. WUCA has used its new social media platform to share reports the Alliance has created, as well as other opportunities and engagement with its partners. WUCA also furthered its engagement with the WUCA Network, continuing to offer virtual learning exchanges, known as Learning from Each Other (LFEOs), with experts and partners. WUCA's learning webinars continue to be an opportunity for experts to share knowledge and build networks with engaged climate adaptation leaders in the water sector.

WUCA WEBSITE

Project Managers: *Keely Brooks (SNWA) and Ashleigh Thompson (SNWA)*

From 2008 -2025 SNWA provided exceptional WUCA website management at no cost. These services included:

- Two website rebuilds;
- Implemented updates requested by WUCA staff quickly and efficiently;
- Developed news stories and content to summarize new reports;
- Built out interactive landing pages for high priority projects;
- Reviewed the website for broken links regularly;
- Applied cyber security best practices; and
- Recommended ways to reorganize the website for maximum impact.

SNWA also tracked and reported monthly and annual website page visitations and key search terms to better understand the value of the website as a communication tool, and to understand ways to better meet WUCA's strategic goal to transfer knowledge to the broader water sector.

Beginning in 2026, SNWA will transfer the WUCA domain and website management over to the Portland Water Bureau for a one-year term to build and manage update requests. Upon transfer, WUCA will pay a nominal fee for the website platform. During 2026, WUCA staff will evaluate the need for a third-party website management service provider and develop a budget proposal to include in the 2027 annual budget request.

CONCLUSION

In 2026, WUCA will expand on the progress of this year's projects, identify new opportunities that align with the upcoming Strategic Plan, and remain responsive to emerging trends. WUCA's projects will support the priorities of its membership, and the water sector, by producing and sharing research and products of actionable value. WUCA looks forward to continuing to produce science and guidance for water utility users and to continue to collaborate with its partners across the water sector and government. WUCA's 2026 Workplan is available on the website with a description of next year's goals.