

NAWC Members: Responsible Stewards of Water Resources

The National Association of Water Companies (NAWC), which represents all aspects of the private water services industry, and its members have pioneered numerous environmental sustainability practices to conserve water and energy. NAWC members have set conservation standards for the industry by supporting green buildings and infrastructure, wind and solar power, biodiversity and aggressive community conservation and education programs.

Wastewater for Green Buildings

American Water, an NAWC member company, partnered with New York City's Battery Park City Authority to develop on-site wastewater and storm water treatment and recycling systems for The Solaire. The Solaire is the first green high-rise apartment building in the U.S. to receive Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

- The Solaire's **wastewater treatment and recycling system is the first urban residential** treated wastewater reuse application permitted in the country.
- The building **consumes 50 percent less water** than comparable New York City apartment buildings unequipped with water reclamation systems.
- American Water's technology has **reduced the amount of fresh water** that is taken from the city's water supply.
- Because less wastewater has to be pumped to the city's treatment facility and less potable water has to be pumped to the building, **energy usage has been reduced** all around, lessening the city's already overtaxed infrastructure.
- *American Water's Applied Water Management Group* has been selected by the Battery Park City Authority to apply its **state-of-the-art green-water and wastewater technologies to five more Battery Park projects** including Tribeca Green and Millennium Towers.

Biodiversity

- Aquarion Water Company and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) have partnered to establish a **one-of-a-kind model for watershed management** that holds sufficient water in reserve without denying the area's watershed the water flow necessary for ecological health and vitality.
- California American Water has **installed unique irrigation systems** to ensure the survival of riparian habitats including green ribbons on trees, shrubs and grasses.
- Artesian Water Company has **sponsored the Christina River Watershed Clean Up for 16 years to improve surface water and watershed health** in Delaware.
- In the San Francisco Bay Area, California Water Services has invested significant resources in fish screens and fish ladders to **maintain the ecologically sensitive watershed** and ensure that endangered species of fish can thrive.

Wind and Solar Power

NAWC members are demonstrating how alternative energy is a viable option. Both Aqua America and Pennsylvania American Water are **operating extensively with pollution-free, wind-generated electricity** and many other plants operate using solar power.

Green Infrastructure

NAWC is a signatory on the **Green Infrastructure Statement of Support** signed by nearly 30 organizations to advocate for the use of green infrastructure. In addition to American Water's innovative use of green infrastructure in New York City, NAWC members across the country have developed methods to recycle, reclaim and reuse water.

- New Jersey American Water **initiated New Jersey's first residential application of Reclaimed Water for Beneficial Reuse**, providing reclaimed water to the lawns and common areas of a retirement community.
- Throughout the Midwest, Missouri American Water found that **native plants can be used to provide a water filtration system** that reduces soil erosion and increases the ground's assimilative capacity to store water through the plant's extensive root systems.
- A wetland was constructed in Illinois by American Water that **minimizes between 20 percent and 60 percent of monitored pollutants**, and flow out of the wetland was 25 percent less than flow in.

Community Involvement and Outreach

Most NAWC members have aggressive community conservation and education programs with the goal of reducing water waste. Member companies educate consumers on the value of water conservation and encourage consumers to use low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators and low-flush toilets. Additional community initiatives include:

- Companies **provide scholarships to local students** interested in environmental science and studies.
- Companies **offer grants for myriad projects** such as those initiated by local nonprofits to educate citizens on protecting area waterways and wildlife habitats, the dangers of water pollution and sustainable environmental practices.
- Companies partner with local schools, museums and nature centers to **provide early environmental education**.

Industry Innovators

- Out of 186 treatment plants recognized for voluntarily achieving more stringent performance goals than those required by state or federal drinking water standards, **51 percent** were investor-owned utilities and NAWC members.
- American Water is the **only water utility in the country to be accepted into the EPA's Climate Leaders program**, an industry-government partnership that works to develop long-term, comprehensive climate change strategies.
- United Water's parent company, Suez Environment, **allocates \$120 million per year to water quality research** — more than any other public or private company in the world.