

Stormwater Funding Equity Roundtable

April 29-30, 2021

This expert's roundtable brings together state officials from the Delaware River Basin states and national and regional policy experts to examine the equity implications of stormwater funding. Discussion will focus on how states can tailor their support to communities and help localities advance and adopt more equitable structures. Participants will examine the equity of different stormwater funding structures in communities with combined and separate sewer systems and will discuss using general funds or dedicated fees. Participants will also discuss the equity considerations in different rate design options, how to convey the equity message, and funding and financing support that can be offered by states to environmental justice communities.

Agenda- Thursday, April 29, 2021

- 10:00-10:30 am **Welcome, Introductions, and Meeting Goals**
NGA will provide an overview of this meeting and expected outcomes. Delaware River Basin state participants and other stakeholders will introduce themselves briefly and highlight equity initiatives they are working on and challenges in their state.
- Speakers:
Jessica Rackley, Program Director, National Governors Association
Bevin Buchheister, Senior Policy Analyst, National Governors Association
- 10:30-10:45 am **Preview of EPA's Newest Stormwater Program**
Michael Goralczyk, Environmental Protection Specialist
Clean Water State Revolving Fund
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Moderator:
Jessica Rackley, NGA
- 10:45-11:05 am **Stormwater Funding Equity Considerations**
An expert will provide an overview of stormwater funding in the Delaware River Basin states and look at various methods local jurisdictions can use to fund combined sewer systems and separate sewer systems. We will examine the equity considerations embedded in each approach from general funds to dedicated utilities and in different rate setting methodologies to identify how rate structures impact different users.
- Speaker:
Andrew Kricun, P.E.
Managing Director of Moonshot Missions, LLC
New Jersey Environmental Justice Advisory Council

Moderator:
Jessica Rackley, NGA

- 11:05-11:20 am **Group Discussion Questions**
1. What stormwater funding changes will have the most equitable impacts?
 2. What data is needed to advance adoption of equitable funding structures and how can states assist local jurisdictions with these needs?
 3. How can stormwater be addressed as part of a state's environmental justice efforts?

11:20- 11:30 am **Break**

11:30 am -12:15 pm **Equitable Approaches in Funding and Permitting**

This session will examine how states can help communities achieve their stormwater goals by prioritizing funding for environmental justice challenges using existing mechanisms like state revolving funds and realizing opportunities through other priorities such as for pre-disaster mitigation. We will also examine equitable approaches states can take in stormwater permitting including collaboration across communities and discuss alternatives to providing extended compliance schedules when communities cannot afford to meet their Clean Water Act permits.

Speakers:
Ellen Kohler, Program Director of Water Resources
University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center

David E. Zimmer, Executive Director
New Jersey Infrastructure Bank

Brian Hahn, Manager, Green Policy Planning and Infrastructure
New York Green Innovation Grant Program

Moderator:
Bevin Buchheister, NGA

- 12:15- 12:30 pm **Group Discussion Questions**
1. How can states use State Revolving Funds to assist environmental justice communities with stormwater needs?
 2. How should affordability analyses be used by states to help environmental justice communities?
 3. What other programs can be leveraged to help local communities meet their stormwater goals?

Agenda – Friday, April 30, 2021

10:00- 10:40 am **Rate-Setting and Messaging for Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Communities**

Learn from combined sewer jurisdictions about the process they went through to adopt equitable stormwater fees. Speakers will discuss their fee development process, how they conveyed the equity implications of all options to the public and elected officials, and how states can help local jurisdictions with specific needs.

Speakers:
Howard Neukrug, P.E.
Director of The Water Center, University of Pennsylvania.
Former Commissioner and CEO of Philadelphia Water

Charlotte Katzenmoyer
CEO, Capital Region Water
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Moderator:
Jessica Rackley, NGA

10:40- 11:00 am

Group Discussion Questions

1. What is the greatest challenge to, and best incentive for, adopting a stormwater fee in a CSO jurisdiction?
2. How can equity messaging help adoption of fair fees?
3. What can states do to help local jurisdictions evaluate and adopt storm water fees that meet program needs and are equitable?

11:00- 11:10 am

Break

11:10- 11:40 am

Funding Stormwater in Low-Income Communities

The speakers will discuss the process that a low-income jurisdiction in the Delaware River basin went through to establish a stormwater authority and their use of a community benefits public private partnership. The speakers will discuss their fee development process, outreach and messaging to the community, challenges, lessons learned, and how states and EPA can help local jurisdictions with specific needs.

Dr. Horace Strand, Executive Manager
Stormwater Authority of the City of Chester

Dominique Lueckenhoff, Senior Vice President
Corporate Affairs and Sustainability
Hugo Neu Group

Moderator:
Bevin Buchheister, NGA

11:40 am-12:00 pm

Group Discussion Questions:

1. What are the equity issues involved in funding stormwater in low-income jurisdictions?
2. What type of assistance is needed for low-income jurisdictions to be able to take advantage of existing loan and grant programs?
3. What data, strategies or information can be used to convince residents to accept a new stormwater fee?

12:00-12:30 pm

Takeaways for Adopting an Equity Approach to Stormwater Funding

NGA will recap main themes, best practices, and challenges discussed during the meeting. Participants will reflect on how states can help local jurisdictions operationalize the ideas and strategies discussed for adopting an equity approach in their stormwater funding.