

Infrastructure NEXT

Progress Report Overview

March 2019



Infrastructure can be the backbone of strong economies, vibrant communities, and a resilient environment. Center for Sustainable Infrastructure (CSI), Willamette Partnership, and Portland State University have formed a partnership aimed at innovative investments and job skills for infrastructure in the Pacific Northwest.

TASK 1 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Infrastructure NEXT team has initiated technical assistance with eleven communities across Oregon and Washington. Each effort is at a different phase with some completed and others still underway.

TASK 2 - WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Infrastructure NEXT team delivered a workforce needs assessment to over 200 water utilities across Oregon and Washington. Thanks to early outreach, the survey got wide distribution of the survey through agencies, utility networks, and professional associations. The survey results will be shared in the coming months, leading to a final report with clear recommendations for supporting the best and brightest in joining the Northwest's water workforce.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

The team has developed lines of communication with our target audience to build interest in our work and anticipated outcomes. We have issued newsletter pieces at least quarterly, participated in 6 professional conferences, and hosted near weekly meetings with partners to build support and awareness of our work, reaching more than >2000 people.

SELECTED OUTCOMES

The Infrastructure NEXT team has been instrumental in securing \$3.4 million in funding for an "Energy Innovation District" in Raymond, WA, and an additional \$540,000 state funds allocated to infrastructure projects in other partner communities. Infrastructure NEXT Value Planning is expected to save \$3-5 million in wastewater upgrade costs to Stevenson, WA, shielding local water-dependent businesses from substantial service fee increases.

NEXT STEPS

In the next six months, we anticipate wrapping up most technical assistance efforts, including the delivery of a Regional Economic Diversification Summit alongside US EDA in the City of John Day, OR. We will also publish and disseminate the results of the water workforce needs assessment.



FEATURED OUTCOME



Supported by Infrastructure NEXT technical assistance, a total of \$3.4 million of state investment is coming to a project that will revitalize an alder wood sawmill into an energy innovation district to foster economic development in the community of Raymond, WA.

Source: Center for Sustainable Infrastructure

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

RAYMOND, WA: Our team is supporting Pacific County Hardwoods' effort to reopen a sawmill (expected to employ 50 people). CSI's work to convene project finance and energy district experts has resulted in \$200,000 in planning dollars, a \$1.4 million to retool and reopen the saw mill through the Washington Department of Natural Resources' Rural Community Partnership Initiative and \$1.8 million from the Community Development Block Grant program.

STEVENSON, WA: Stevenson is facing costly upgrades to its wastewater treatment facility, motivated by the growth of its thriving brewery and distillery sector. We developed and delivered a value planning workshop and strategic report detailing how the community can save \$3-5M on those investments, supporting affordable water service for businesses and residents.

JOHN DAY, OR: Officials in the City of John Day envision a "drought-proof" water source feeding into a vertically integrated food- growing and food-processing industrial park. Technical assistance from Infrastructure NEXT consultations has resulted in the City receiving \$120,000 in planning grants, and will support a Regional Economic Diversification Summit in collaboration with US EDA in June.

HARNEY COUNTY, OR: We conducted stakeholder interviews to summarize stakeholder perspectives on how to address localized flooding and compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements. The questions and opportunities raised guided an RFP for \$100,000 to analyze specific next steps on flood infrastructure.

SPOKANE, WA: CSI led a delegation of Spokane officials to Denmark and Sweden with the goal of bringing back knowledge about sustainable infrastructure best practices. Local officials are particularly interested in exploring waste management solutions such as waste-to-energy and "industrial symbiosis". CSI recently used these concepts in a \$120,000 planning grant proposal.

TOPPENISH, WA: The Toppenish waste water plant has recently made significant upgrades and will likely be asked for more in their next permit cycle. The City Manager sees an opportunity to save money, support framers, and reduce water use for irrigation through water quality trading. Willamette Partnership has advised the city on how to move that forward through US EPA and advocated for Toppenish with high level officials at US EPA in Washington DC.

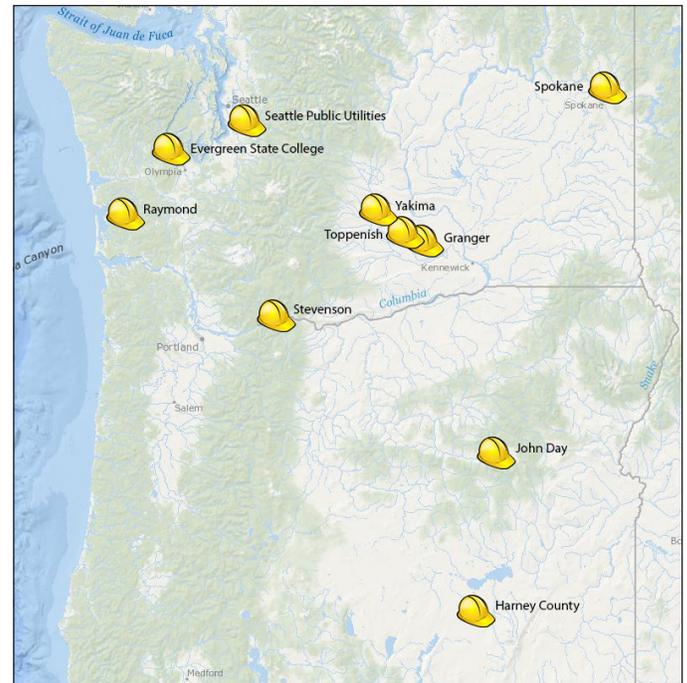
YAKIMA VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: Our team supported Yakima Council of Governments in scoping key infrastructure investments. We're currently assessing how to deliver on those project concepts in a way that optimizes benefits to the multiple small communities in the Yakima Valley.

EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE: The college needs a ready-to-implement "Integrated Infrastructure Master Plan" that delivers the same level of service or better to college staff and students, at the same cost or lower. CSI helped scope the design competition and helped secure \$500,000 from WA state legislature to implement it.

GRANGER, WA: Following technical assistance on funding and financing strategies for transportation infrastructure, Granger applied for and received \$170,000 in rehabilitation project funding from WA Transportation Improvement Board, to be spent on road improvements at multiple downtown locations.

SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES: Infrastructure NEXT partners convened a group of infrastructure and community development experts to provide a vision for how stormwater and wastewater system investments could strengthen Seattle's social, economic, and ecological fabric with particular focus on a) lifting up distressed portions of the city, such as South Park, and b) resilience to and quick recovery from economic shocks.

PROJECT MAP



LEARN MORE

This project is funded from 2017-2019 through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Learn more by signing up for updates at willamettepartnership.org/water-infrastructure/workforce or learn more about Value Planning at www.csi.org

