

Infrastructure NEXT

Progress Report Overview

Reporting Period: Oct. 1, 2017 - April 1, 2018

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.



WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP



Center for Sustainable Infrastructure



Portland State UNIVERSITY

TASK 1 - TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Infrastructure NEXT team has initiated technical assistance with nine communities across Oregon and Washington. Each effort is at a different phase with some well underway or even completed and others in the early scoping phase.

TASK 2 - WORKFORCE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Infrastructure NEXT team has conducted a literature review and extensive outreach across both states to utilities, state agencies, professional associations, workforce experts, community colleges, and others to understand their workforce challenges. A draft survey will be pre-tested with a select group of utilities in the next two months, followed by wide distribution of the survey through agencies, utility networks, and professional associations.

COMMUNICATIONS & OUTREACH

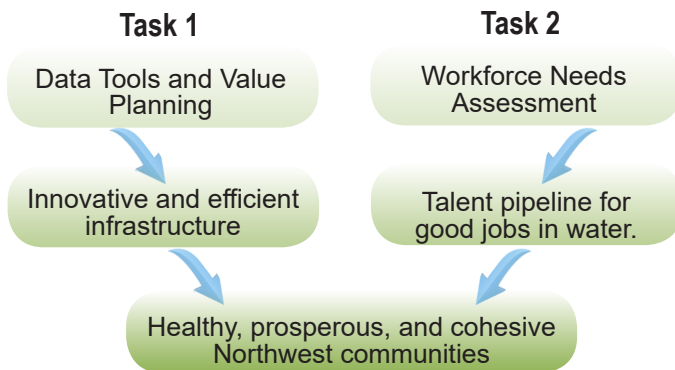
The team has done significant work to develop lines of communication with our target audience and build interest in our work and anticipated outcomes. We have a project webpage, handouts, and a newsletter. We have had over 30 meetings, presentations, or phonecalls with utility associations, agencies, and other key decision-makers.

OUTCOMES

The Infrastructure NEXT team has been instrumental in securing \$1.5 million in funding for an "Energy Innovation District" in Raymond, WA. Three other partner communities, including Spokane, Evergreen State College, and Tenino, are actively pursuing an additional \$1.4 million in infrastructure or planning dollars. Stevenson, WA has directly engaged the team to conduct value planning on a proposed \$14 million wastewater investment.

NEXT STEPS

In the next six months, we anticipate one to two value planning workshops and delivery of the water workforce needs assessment. Technical assistance will continue with all communities.



FEATURED OUTCOME



Washington's Dept. of Natural Resources is allocating \$1.5 million 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. Rather than processing more trees, economic growth will stem from getting more value out of the trees that are processed."

Source: Center for Sustainable Infrastructure

CITY HIGHLIGHTS

RAYMOND, WA: Our team is supporting Pacific County Hardwoods' efforts to reopen a sawmill (expected to employ 50 people). The Center for Sustainable Infrastructure's work to convene project finance and energy district experts has resulted in a \$1.5 million allocation through Washington Department of Natural Resources' Rural Community Partnership Initiative.

STEVENSON, WA: Stevenson is facing costly upgrades to its wastewater treatment facility, motivated by the growth of its thriving brewery and distillery sector. Our team is helping maximize the value and minimize the cost of those infrastructure investments to support affordable water service for businesses and residents.

JOHN DAY, OR: Officials of John Day envision a "drought-proof" water source feeding into a vertically integrated food-growing and food-processing industrial park. Our team may analyze the economic viability of this opportunity.

HARNEY COUNTY, OR: Harney County wants to explore and evaluate options for reducing localized flooding, increasing resiliency to extreme weather events, and reducing residents' flood insurance rates. Our team will help them develop an RFP with clear goals, objectives, and metrics.

SPOKANE, WA: Spokane is exploring opportunities for stormwater and energy sector investments to support some of its most distressed and underinvested neighborhoods. Our team will be providing technical assistance on the vision for a sustainable Spokane and addressing some information gaps around sustainable, multi-benefit stormwater solutions.

TENINO, WA: The Thurston Economic Development Council recently received an \$800,000 capital funding grant from the Washington legislature for an agriculture/food processing/value-added business park, co-located with their wastewater facility. Infrastructure NEXT may provide value planning services to optimize community benefits from that investment.

YAKIMA VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS: Our team provided training for local officials on delivering high-quality grant proposals that bring in state agency funding for local infrastructure priorities. We may also help explore financing for irrigation upgrades that benefit farmers and the local water utilities.

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 is helping them get there by designing a competition to engage private sector innovation on the Master Plan.

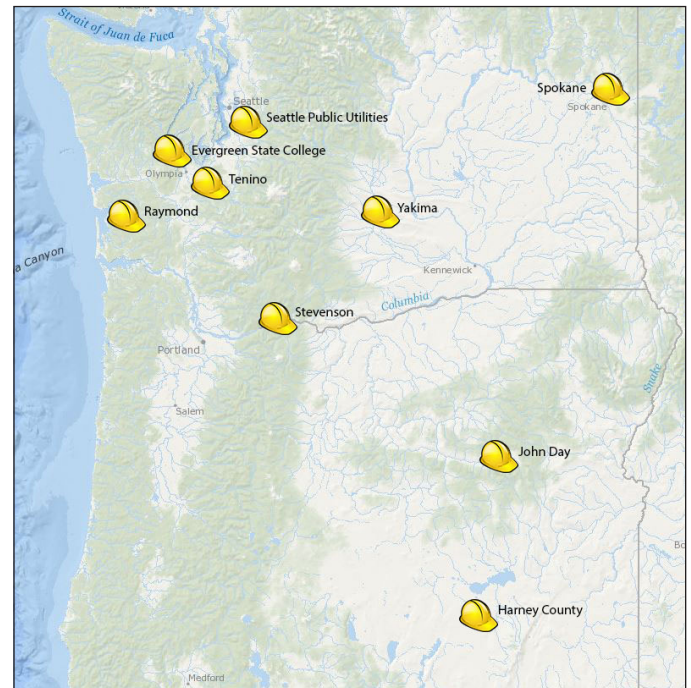
SEATTLE PUBLIC UTILITIES: Infrastructure NEXT partners convened a group of infrastructure and community development experts to provide a vision for how stormwater and wastewater system investments could strengthen Seattle's social, economic, and ecological fabric with particular focus on a) lifting up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

LEARN MORE

This project is funded from 2017-2019 through a grant from the U.S. Economic Development Administration. Learn more by contacting members of the project team listed below, or sign up for updates at willamettepartnership.org/water-infrastructure/workforce.



PROJECT MAP



Contact Us

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