



Water Stewardship

Improving water management through risk assessment and collective action

Many organizations recognize the risks and opportunities presented by water in operations and across the value chain. A robust water stewardship program provides a foundation for cost savings, product and service innovation, mitigation of physical, regulatory and reputational risks, brand value enhancement, and improved relationships with customers, investors, suppliers, local communities and other stakeholders.

WSP augments our water stewardship capabilities with strategic and technical expertise in industrial water management, hydrogeology, and water supply, reuse and resource management. This allows us to provide a unique perspective on issues to address, how to structure programs and where to prioritize effort to achieve the greatest benefit.

Our services

WSP's water stewardship services include:

- **Benchmarking and maturity assessment:** Evaluating water stewardship efforts relative to peers to guide program direction.
- **Water inventory management:** Data collection, quality assurance, issue resolution, and support during third-party verification.
- **Risk assessment:** Identifying and prioritizing risks most important to the organization and its stakeholders, and leveraging publicly available tools such as the World Resources Institute's Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas and custom solutions based on client preferences.
- **Strategic planning:** Developing actionable strategies with clear vision, focus, accountability and timing.
- **Program design and governance:** Structuring effort across functions, acknowledging the multi-disciplinary nature of water management.
- **Goal and target setting:** Setting ambitious goals (e.g., water reduction and replenishment) and communicating anticipated results.
- **Stakeholder engagement:** Identifying and consulting stakeholders on program design, priorities and progress.
- **Program implementation:** Executing on water stewardship strategies including developing partnerships with internal and external stakeholders to achieve program goals and objectives.

WSP is positioned to address issues across the evolving sustainability landscape with technical capabilities in water stewardship, inventory management, life cycle assessment (LCA), sustainability strategy, climate resiliency and adaptation planning, and sustainable supply chain.

Our experience

PUBLISHING A WATER ACCOUNTING METHODOLOGY

WSP has partnered with the World Resources Institute on a methodology that will allow reporting organizations to quantify their 'Scope 2' water impacts from purchased electricity. Publication of the methodology is targeted for early 2019, following a multi-stakeholder review process.

DEVELOPED WATER STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY FOR A TECHNOLOGY CLIENT

Our initial role included peer benchmarking, stakeholder engagement, goal setting and development of a three-year roadmap. WSP then implemented this strategy, which involved conducting a water inventory, risk assessment, site-level water opportunity assessments, and embedded water analysis including 'Scope 2' water impacts; leading the company's CDP water response; and developing partnerships for water replenishment activities.

PERFORMED A WATER RISK ASSESSMENT FOR A FOOD AND BEVERAGE CLIENT

Using multiple modalities, WSP prioritized water-related risks across the company's operations and supply chain. Methods used included the Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas, the Water Risk Monetizer, and desk research leveraging WSP's expertise on emerging global water risks.

COMPLETED A SUPPLIER WATER RISK ASSESSMENT FOR A TECHNOLOGY CLIENT

WSP performed a screening-level analysis of over 100 suppliers using the WRI Aqueduct Water Risk Atlas to identify suppliers with facilities in areas of high water risk. WSP then prioritized suppliers for future engagement by collecting information on high risk suppliers, including water withdrawals and discharges, production data and any self-reported water risks via the CDP Water questionnaire.

CONDUCTED WATER INVENTORY AND DEVELOPED REPORTING FOR A FINANCIAL SERVICES CLIENT

This effort involved collaborating with internal and external stakeholders to collect data on water-related key performance indicators, such as withdrawals, discharges and reuse. WSP managed data collection, quality assurance, issue resolution and metrics calculation, supported third-party verification of all metrics and developed the company's CDP Water response.

About WSP USA

WSP USA is the U.S. operating company of one of the world's leading engineering and professional services firms, WSP. Dedicated to serving local communities, we are engineers, planners, technical experts, strategic advisors and construction management professionals. WSP USA designs lasting solutions in the buildings, transportation, energy, water and environment sectors. With more than 7,000 people in 100 offices across the U.S., we partner with our clients to help communities prosper.

WSP's multidisciplinary sustainability, energy and climate change team has been providing related services for two decades. We support clients across sectors by providing strategy and planning, as well as operational and technical expertise. We are passionate about contributing to our clients' successes through our depth of expertise, collaborative approach and unique perspective on the market.

For more information on water stewardship, or our sustainability, energy and climate change services, please contact:

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