

New England Water Works Association

The Economic Importance of Investment in Water Infrastructure



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a Section of the American Water Works Association

New England Water Works Association

- Established in 1882, the New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) is a not-for-profit organization
- NEWWA is the leading authority on education, training opportunities, and public outreach to protect and improve drinking water and water utility operations



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NEWWA's Vision

- Our vision is to Inspire excellence in the drinking water profession, public confidence in tap water, and water resource stewardship.



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Training

- During our 2015-2016 academic calendar year, NEWWA taught over 5,000 students across 280 course offerings.
- Trainings and courses are conducted at our headquarters in Holliston, MA, as well as satellite locations across all New England states.



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Research & Symposia on Water

- NEWWA's quarterly Journal - a 129-year-old publication - provides technical information on the water supply profession. Peer review is also available.
- Annual Symposia on Water Quality, Ground Water and Resource Protection



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Membership and Committees

- **Over 2,600 members involved in all aspects of the Drinking Water Profession**
- **Dozens of Committees engaged in all facets of Industry research and issues**



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Awards and Recognitions

- NEWWA's leadership annually bestows awards for excellence in the areas of research publications, lifetime achievement, and public service-including our Legislator of the Year Award



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Our Mission is to Enhance Public Health

- Educating the Public and Public Officials about the health and economic benefits of investment in Water Infrastructure is an essential component of meeting NEWWA's mission and has been for over 130 years!



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Water is a huge Economic Driver

- investment in water and wastewater infrastructure is not just good for public health and well-being - it's good for the economy
- Let's look at some statistics.....



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How much water are we losing?

A lot!

- Our massive underground distribution and collection networks are failing, resulting in 240,000 breaks annually in the US.
- Sewer overflows send 860 billion gallons of untreated sewage into our waterways every year.



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How much water are we losing?

- In the US, 16% of treated drinking water never makes it to our taps
- We lose approximately 7 billion gallons of drinking water every day.
- This lost water directly affects our economy and job creation



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Fixing Our Infrastructure won't be cheap but it is long overdue!

- Restoring existing water systems as they reach the end of their useful lives and expanding them to serve a growing population will cost at least \$1 trillion over the next 25 years
- Total public investment in water infrastructure as a share of the economy is estimated to have fallen by over one-third since levels of investment in 1975.



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But the benefits are substantial

- A 2009 report from the Clean Water Council demonstrated that water, sewer and storm water management projects add significant value to the local economy. Specifically, it found that **for every \$1 billion invested in water and wastewater infrastructure, more than 26,000 jobs are created.**



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Those 26,000 jobs are good jobs at good wages!

- **Direct jobs** Represents employment opportunities in industries, such as construction and utility sectors, that implement the actual work on projects
- **Indirect jobs** Represents employment opportunities in sectors, such as manufacturing, that equipment and machinery to the direct industries
- **Induced jobs** Represents employment opportunities created when income earned by newly hired workers and firms is spent throughout the economy



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- **Total public investment in water infrastructure as a share of the economy is estimated to have fallen by over one-third since peak levels of investment in 1975.**



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- That \$1B investment results in total national output (i.e., demand for products and services in all industries) of between \$2.87 and \$3.46 billion.
- The U.S Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis further found that **each job created in the local water and wastewater industry creates 3.68 jobs in the national economy,**
- The report noted that each public dollar spent yields \$2.62 dollars in economic output in other industries.



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The ROI on Infrastructure Investments

- According to Mark Zandi, Chief Economist of Moody's Analytics infrastructure investments create over **16 percent more jobs dollar-for-dollar than a payroll tax holiday, nearly 40 percent more jobs than an across-the-board tax cut, and over five times as many jobs as temporary business tax cuts**



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The Consequences of Inaction are Significant

- American Society of Civil Engineers found that “water related infrastructure in the United States is clearly aging, and investment is not able to keep up with the need.” It contended that if the current trend continues, the U.S. could lose nearly 700,000 jobs by 2020, and 1.4 million by 2040.



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Thanks very much!



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