



NASSCO

CONGRESSIONAL POLICY
RECOMMENDATIONS



2026



The American Society of Civil Engineers 2025 Infrastructure Report Card awarded grades of D+ for wastewater infrastructure and D for stormwater infrastructure, both unchanged since the 2021 Report Card.



Policy Recommendations

Our nation's underground water infrastructure is not seen, yet it is the economic and public health backbone and foundation of our country. It is only recognized by the public when water does not flow from the tap, waste does not flush down the toilet, stormwater floods neighborhoods, or our roadways are not passable due to pipe failures. This critical pipeline system under our feet ensures the health, safety, and economic prosperity for all of us.

While Congress has made meaningful progress through legislation and increased funding to address the nation's water infrastructure, and hundreds of projects are underway, both small and large communities continue to struggle to keep pace with repairing and replacing aging water, wastewater, and stormwater systems. As these systems fail more frequently, concerns about public health and safety grow, and consumers and businesses face disruptions to the reliable, high-quality service utilities aim to provide. Addressing these challenges will take time and sustained federal support, particularly for small and rural communities.

NASSCO has put forth recommendations for federal policymakers to adopt that will make meaningful headway towards improving the nation's wastewater and stormwater collections and conveyance networks.

Recommendation #1

Fully Fund Drinking Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater Pipeline Infrastructure

Congress should include in the FY27 budget full funding for all federal programs that fund water infrastructure through re-authorization of the Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA). This funding is vital for helping utilities, communities, and local businesses. A recent US EPA report found that \$630.1 billion is needed for water infrastructure projects over the next 20 years, of which \$302.9 billion (48%) are for wastewater collections systems, stormwater systems, and combined sewer overflow prevention projects to meet federal Clean Water Act regulations.

That amount will increase due to the systems being older and the small amount of funding provided to maintain and upgrade them. Congress should fully fund the following water infrastructure programs at the original IIJA proposed FY26 levels:

- Clean Water State Revolving Fund: \$3.25 Billion
- Drinking Water State Revolving Fund: \$3.25 Billion
- Overflow Control and Stormwater Municipal Reuse Grants: \$280 Million
- Water Infrastructure Financing & Innovation Authority: \$50 Million+
- Connection to Publicly Owned Treatment Works Grants: \$40 Million
- Stormwater Control Infrastructure Projects Grants: \$10 Million
- Clean Water Infrastructure Resiliency & Sustainability Program Grants: \$25 Million

Infrastructure Facts:

There are an estimated **19,700 wastewater pipe systems comprising approximately 800,000 miles of sewer pipelines.** Over 75% of all Americans rely upon well built and maintained wastewater collections systems.

The US EPA estimates that **at least 23,000 and up to 75,000 sanitary sewer overflow events** occur in the United States each year due to structural failure, blockages, and overflows.

Recommendation #2

Strengthen Asset Management Requirement and Funding

Congress should require that wastewater and stormwater infrastructure projects that receive federal funding have asset management plans, and that grants and technical assistance be provided to communities that lack the financial and technical resources to develop comprehensive asset management plans.

Changes should be made to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Water & Wastewater Disposal Loan & Grant Program, U.S. Dept. of Transportation programs, and all other federal programs that fund collections infrastructure to require applicants submit an asset management plan as a condition of receiving federal funding, and that all of the assets of the entire system be included in the asset management plan. Grants and low interest loans to complete asset management plans should be made available through the Clean Water SRF and other federal funding programs.

Communities with limited financial and technical capabilities face some of the largest infrastructure challenges. They need support through grants to help them develop comprehensive asset management plans, which will ensure that federal funding is being spent on the most needed projects.

Infrastructure Facts:



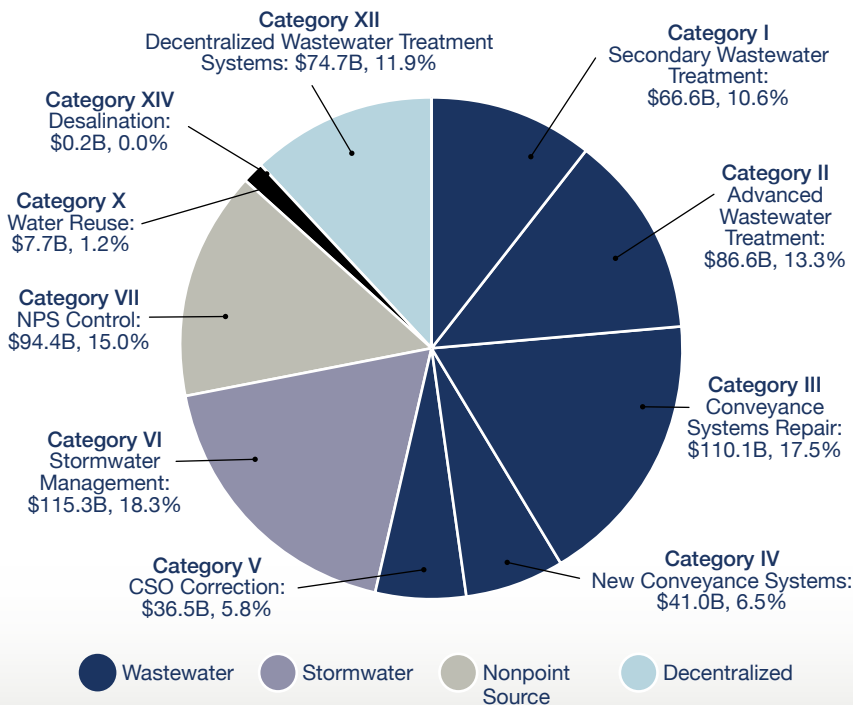
Between the 2012 and 2022 EPA Clean Watershed Needs Surveys (CWNS), **reported needs rose significantly from \$336.0 billion to \$630.1 billion.** This is a 73% increase in 10 years.

Recommendation #3

Require Certified Inspectors and Standardized Inspection Methods

Congress should direct the EPA, USDA, Department of Transportation, and other federal agencies to require certified inspectors and a standardized inspection method for projects that receive federal funding. In order to protect the interests of taxpayers and ensure that federal support for infrastructure investments is well spent, it should be required that certified inspectors perform pipe assessments using standardized inspection practices of drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems.

In the 2022 EPA Clean Watershed Needs Survey, stormwater infrastructure had the highest single need, at \$115.8 billion – 18% of the overall total.
This was an increase of \$91.5 billion, a 385% increase from 2012 CWNS.



Recommendation #4

Streamline SRF Permitting

America's water infrastructure can't afford permitting gridlock. NASSCO urges Congress to modernize SRF permitting by replacing today's fragmented, duplicative reviews with coordinated interagency timelines, parallel processing where allowable, and standardized documentation—so critical clean water projects can break ground sooner without weakening environmental protections. Streamlining the process will stretch SRF dollars further, reduce local carrying costs, and deliver safe drinking water and cleaner waterways faster, especially for small and rural communities that face the steepest delays.

Turn to NASSCO for Knowledge and Support

As the underground infrastructure industry's leading 501 (c) (6) trade association, NASSCO and its member companies are the most knowledgeable source of information regarding education, technical resources, and advocacy of trenchless – or “no dig” – technology. **Please visit [NASSCO.org](https://www.nassco.org) to:**

- Learn more about the financial and environmental benefits of trenchless technology
- Understand the importance of inspection as part of asset management programs
- View videos, recorded webinars, and more to understand wastewater systems



Interested in visiting a job site in your region to see trenchless technology in action? Complete the Contact Form at **[NASSCO.org](https://www.nassco.org)** and we will pair you up with a NASSCO member company in your state.



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