

## Community-Based Water Resiliency Electronic Tool

The CBWR electronic tool is a CD-based tool that will help communities begin to build their own unique CBWR program. The main component is a self-assessment tool to assist users with the steps involved with implementing a CBWR initiative.

This self-assessment culminates in a summary report, providing stakeholders with an evaluation of their emergency preparedness and recommendations and tools for launching a water resiliency program in their community.

The CBWR electronic tool also includes guidance on how to identify critical water users in a community and suggestions for engaging them in the design and implementation of CBWR efforts.



### Contact Us:

Additional information on EPA's CBWR Initiative is available at <http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/watersecurity>  
For additional information, please contact: [WSD-outreach@epa.gov](mailto:WSD-outreach@epa.gov)



## Community-Based Water Resiliency Initiative



*Strengthening Communities through Water Preparedness*

**Reliable drinking water and wastewater services are critical to communities, for consumption as well as to support delivery of other critical services; such as healthcare, transportation, and energy.** In the event of a water service disruption, the health of a community, and the continuity of the many services a community provides, may be jeopardized.

To reduce these risks, and their ensuing impacts, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed a holistic, community-wide approach to water infrastructure protection. Referred to as the Community-Based Water Resiliency (CBWR) Initiative, this effort focuses on identifying and developing a suite of tools and resources that can be successfully implemented by water utility owners/operators and the local communities they serve.

CBWR tools can be implemented at the local level, by local officials, and with only minimal financial investment.

## Water Sector Critical Interdependencies

Water infrastructure is designated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as one of eighteen critical infrastructures. While all other sectors rely on the nation's water infrastructure to function, the critical interdependencies between sectors are often not well understood or appreciated.

Damage to water infrastructure has the potential to adversely affect the operation of all other critical infrastructure sectors, including energy, transportation, and public health; and, as such, protecting water infrastructure is imperative.



## Benefits of Implementing a CBWR Program in Your Community

Implementing a CBWR program can garner multiple benefits to your community's ability to plan, prepare, respond to and recover from water service disruptions. CBWR enables communities to:

- Recognize the effects of water service disruptions on critical community services;
- Understand how to integrate the effects of water service disruptions into emergency planning;
- Increase preparedness and resiliency of drinking water and wastewater utilities; and
- Incorporate security and climate ready practices into current operational practices.



## CBWR Offers a Community-Wide Approach to Preparedness

Unlike many water protective programs, water utility owners/operators are not solely responsible for implementing CBWR. This effort can also be initiated by:

- Emergency Responders (e.g. fire and police departments)
- Public works officials
- City/county managers
- Commissioners
- Council members
- Members of the public
- Key businesses and services (e.g., hospitals, food processing plants, etc.)

Communication and collaboration between these key stakeholders will work most effectively to enhance water resiliency.

## Steps to Implementing a CBWR Program

Implementing a CBWR program is easy-to-do, especially with the many tools and resources available. Steps include:

- Identifying community-specific goals and objectives to enhance water resiliency;
- Identifying specific deliverables needed to achieve project goals and objectives;
- Identifying and engaging potential implementation partners;
- Estimating resources and time needed to develop and implement the overarching project and key deliverables; and
- Identifying options for securing resources.

## Tools and Resources to Assist with Implementing a CBWR Program

Tools and resources are available both online and on a self-launching CD, and include:

- CBWR Web site
- Roadmap to Water Resiliency for Local Communities
- Suite of fact sheets and posters highlighting water sector interdependencies with various other critical infrastructures
- Customizable outreach materials for use by local officials in developing, implementing, and marketing CBWR efforts
- Outreach efforts to promote CBWR initiative (e.g., presentations, workshops, Webcasts)
- Available EPA tools and resources to help communities become more resilient to a water service disruption