

RURAL AMERICA RELIES ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER PROGRAMS CREATE SUSTAINABILITY

SUSTAINABILITY FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Small and rural communities rely on access to affordable loan and grant opportunities through USDA Rural Development to make repairs, upgrades, and to build new critical infrastructure for their communities.

While affordable financing is a vital component for these communities, it is not the complete solution. After these projects are completed, the need for training for water and wastewater operators does not go away. Technical assistance ensures the government's and public's investment is secured. For small and rural communities to remain sustainable, they need ongoing training and technical assistance.

Last year, Circuit Riders directly helped to protect the health and safety of 30,721,691 people - 42% of rural America.

1 in 5
Americans Live in a Rural Community

Technical assistance for small and rural communities includes providing training, energy audits, certification, financial management, environmental compliance, governance, and on-site technical assistance necessary to ensure that water and wastewater facilities operate at the highest possible level. Through the grants provided through USDA WEP, these services are provided at no cost through technical assistance providers like NRWA and its State Affiliates. The loss of funding for this essential technical assistance will jeopardize the sustainability of rural water systems and their communities. System managers will be forced to choose between not addressing ongoing operational and management issues or contracting for these services at steep costs.

Today's Congressional policies and funding decisions are jeopardizing the sustainability of every community in rural America. Budget cuts will leave USDA WEP unable to accomplish its mission. WEP is instrumental in helping rural America ensure their communities are sustainable now and into the future.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (WEP)

State Rural Water Associations in partnership with USDA RD WEP provide the following technical assistance to rural communities:

- Circuit Rider Program
- Disaster Recovery Circuit Rider Program
- Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program
- NRWA Apprenticeship Program
- Manufactured Housing Program
- Energy Efficiency Program
- Decentralized Wastewater Technical Assistance and Training Program

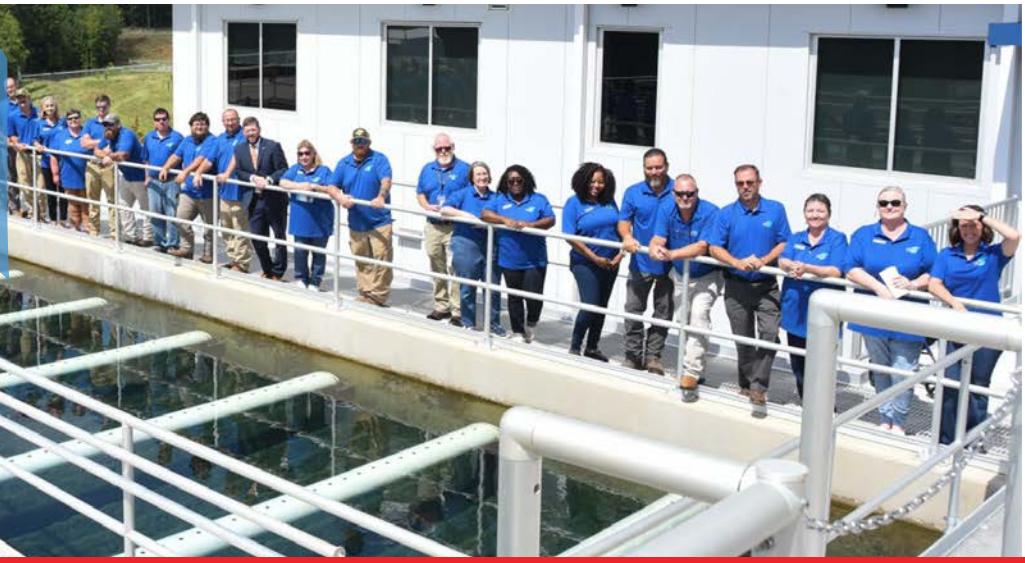
TELL CONGRESS NOW

KEEP RURAL AMERICA STRONG!

Scan the QR Code to learn more about how you can help keep Rural America Strong!



THE IMPACT



Laurens County Water and Sewer Commission (LCWSC) Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility

RURAL AMERICA SERVES RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The USDA Rural Development (USDA RD) funding has been essential for us. It provided the financial support necessary to make this project feasible without overburdening local resources or ratepayers, and it enabled us to secure a reliable, long-term water source for our county. USDA RD funding is essential in ensuring that LCWSC can continue to deliver reliable, affordable, and high-quality water services to Laurens County, both now and in the future.

- Jeff Field, LCWSC Executive Director



IMPACT IN ACTION

In 2007, a severe drought brought attention to vulnerabilities in LCWSC's water supply. Both the Enoree River and Lake Rabon experienced significant drops in water levels, raising concerns about the long-term sustainability of its water resources.

In response, the board decided to evaluate all available water resources in Laurens County and compare them to its projected water demand over the next 50 years. The findings were alarming, revealing a very high probability that LCWSC's existing water capacity could be exhausted within that time frame.

The conclusion was clear: without tapping into additional water resources, LCWSC risked running out of water in the future. Recognizing the unpredictability of future droughts and the potential for new industries to move into Laurens County, LCWSC prioritized the development and construction of the Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility.

The Lake Greenwood Water Treatment Facility and Raw Water Intake is one of the largest and most important capital projects ever undertaken in Laurens County. The project would not have been possible without crucial funding from USDA Rural Development (USDA RD). The rates and terms offered by USDA RD are not available from other lenders for projects of this nature. This funding not only secured a long-term, sustainable water source for Laurens County but also enabled the LCWSC to maintain control over costs. As a result, LCWSC can offer more stable rates to its customers, provide sufficient water to support community growth and ensure consistent water quality across its service area.

CALL TO ACTION

Fund Water Infrastructure - Stand Up for USDA Rural Development

Rural Development will continue to play a vital role in modernizing, preserving, and protecting rural America's infrastructure and public health. You can help secure its future today by signing the pledge and writing to your Congressional representatives today.

Providing adequate support and resources necessary to protect and enhance the environment, public health, sustainability of utilities, and economic vitality of rural America with clean, affordable, and safe water service is a primary responsibility for our federal elected officials.

Visit www.ruralwaterstrong.org to learn more.