



The Power of Partnerships for Water and Wastewater Systems

November 15, 2022 | 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM

Hybrid Training: In person at Eastern Carolina Council, New Bern, NC

Online via Zoom

[Register here](#) for either option

Running a small system can be challenging. Along with meeting regulatory obligations and satisfying customer expectations, you may have issues with aging infrastructure, lack of personnel, and limited financial resources. Furthermore, small systems often cost more to operate per capita than large systems because of economy of scale. This can further complicate operations. One strategy to address these challenges is to work with other utilities. In this workshop, we will discuss various approaches to collaboration including:

- Informal information sharing
- Sharing personnel
- Leveraging shared purchasing power
- Helping maintain regulatory compliance
- How to prepare your utility for knowledge or technology transfer

Additionally, we will discuss how to prepare for partnerships with financial benchmarking and asset management.

This training has been approved for 6 CEUs for water or wastewater operators

Facilitated By: Elsemarie Mullins, Project Director, Environmental Finance at the University of North Carolina

Elsemarie Mullins is a Project Director with the EFC at UNC. In this capacity, she conducts trainings, direct advising, and applied research to water and wastewater utilities. Elsemarie is a trainer for financial and managerial trainings for small water systems across the United States. Elsemarie has worked directly with utility managers in assessing and addressing the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on utility finance and rates, and created tools that utilities can use to project the pandemic's effects on rates and revenues over the next two years. She has also conducted the most comprehensive studies of the effects of the pandemic on utilities in North Carolina. Elsemarie has a Master's degree in Geological Sciences from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science.



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Agenda

9:30 Introductions

Partnership basics

Options and examples

Elements of a successful partnership

11:00 What to include in a successful interlocal agreement

Case study of collaboration

12:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 Small group discussion about partnerships: sharing barriers and opportunities

2:00 How to prepare for partnerships

Financial benchmarking

Asset Management

3:15 Funding options for partnerships

3:45 Wrap-up, Questions and Discussion

4:30 Adjourn

Thank you to the Eastern Carolina Council for hosting this event.



<http://www.eccog.org>

