Vessel

Closing the Wastewater Access Gap Forever:

A National Roadmap to Bring Water and Sanitation to Every Community in the United States

Presented in partnership with:

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

LIXIL

Infiltrator™ Part of ADS

The materials being presented represent our own opinions, and do not reflect the opinions of NOWRA.



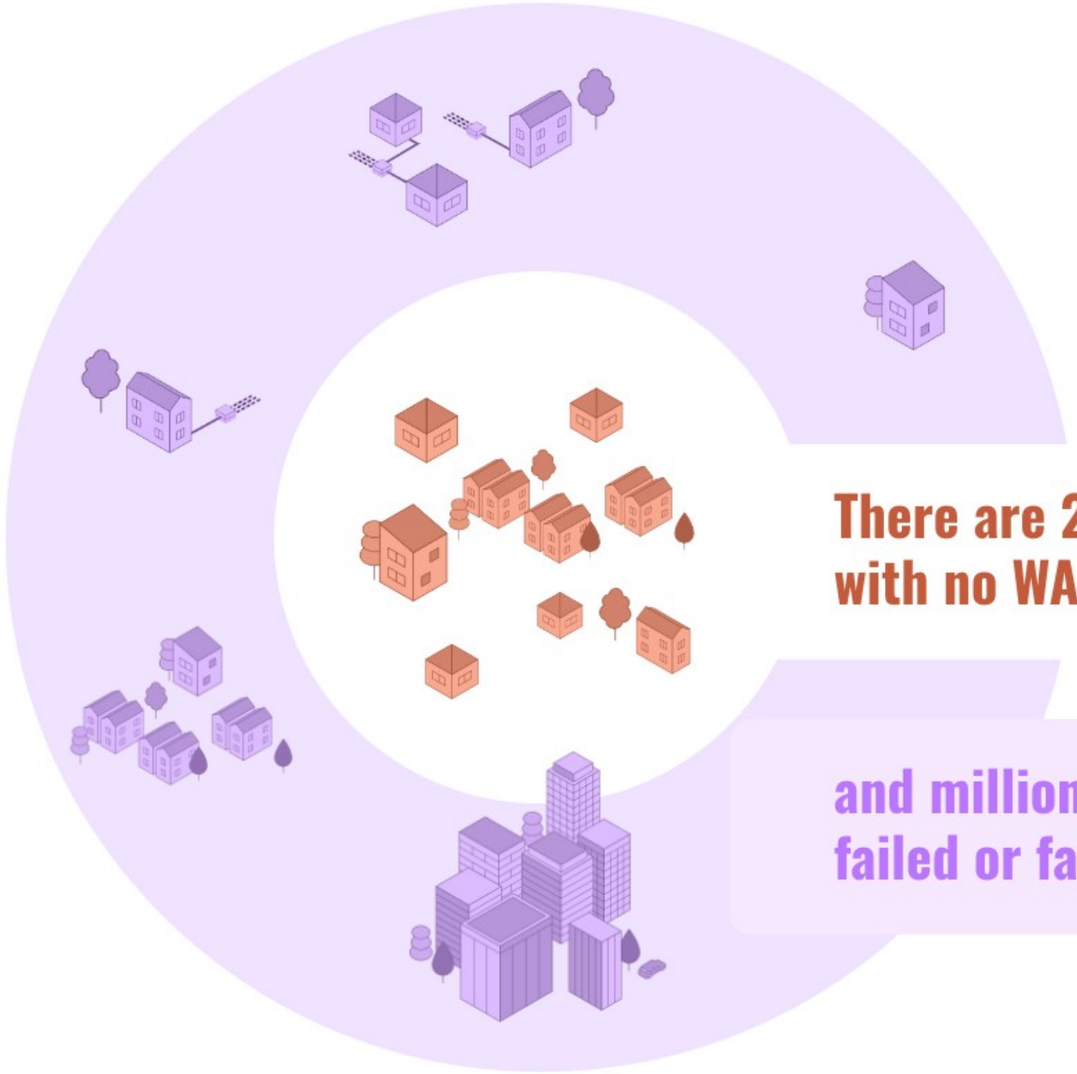
NATIONAL ROADMAP TO CLOSE THE U.S. WATER ACCESS GAP

Kabir Thatte
VP of Policy & External Relations, DigDeep
Executive Director, The Vessel Collective

Explore the National Roadmap

Over 50 organizations endorsed – including NOWRA – you can too!

America's Hidden Water Crisis



There are 2.2+ million people with no WASH access

and millions more have failed or failing systems

FAST FACTS



2M+

PEOPLE

Across the United States lack access to running water and basic plumbing at home.

19x

MORE LIKELY

Native American families are 19x more likely, and Black and Latino households are twice as likely as white households to lack indoor plumbing.

$8.6B

ANNUAL LOSS

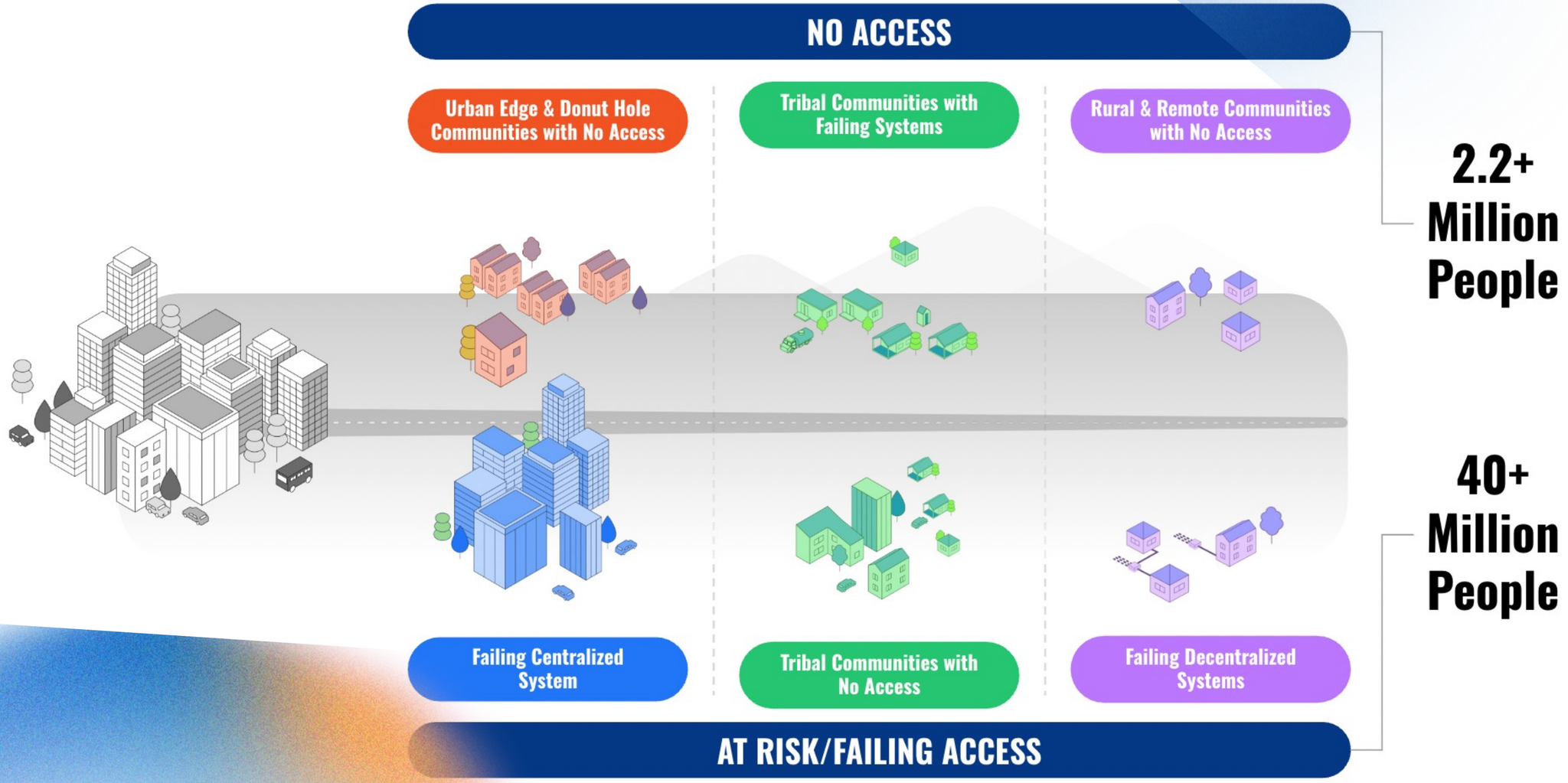
The U.S. economy loses nearly $8.6 billion a year in impacts caused by labor loss, healthcare costs, and premature deaths.

150+

ORGANIZATIONS

There are least 150 organizations of implementers, funders, academics, community champions, government agencies and more—all committed to improving water and sanitation access across the country.

THE PROBLEM LOOKS DIFFERENT DEPENDING ON WHERE YOU ARE.



Our Vision: By 2040, every home in the U.S. will have access to clean, running water and a working toilet.

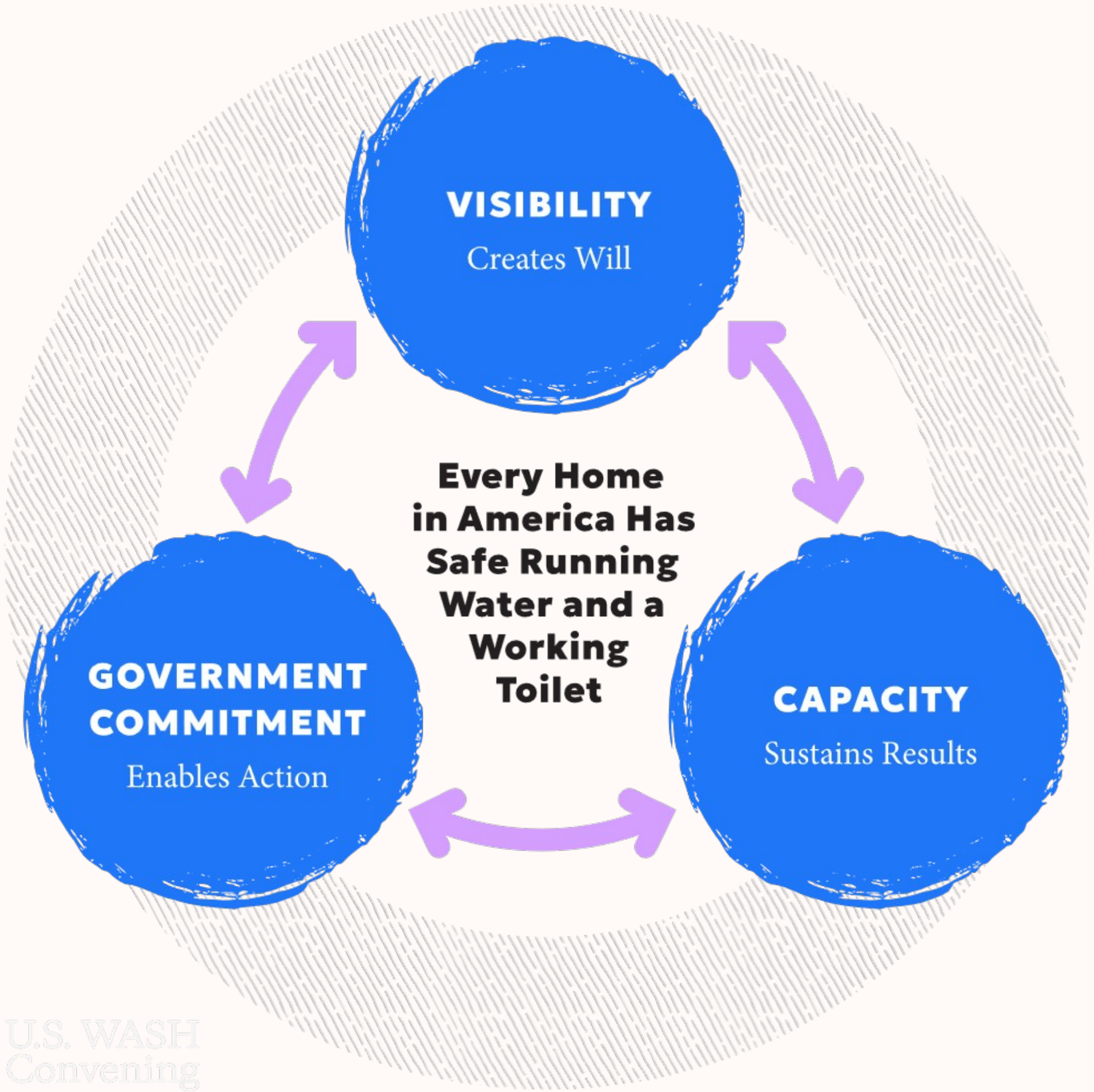
Forever.

Why the gap persists

The problem is invisible.

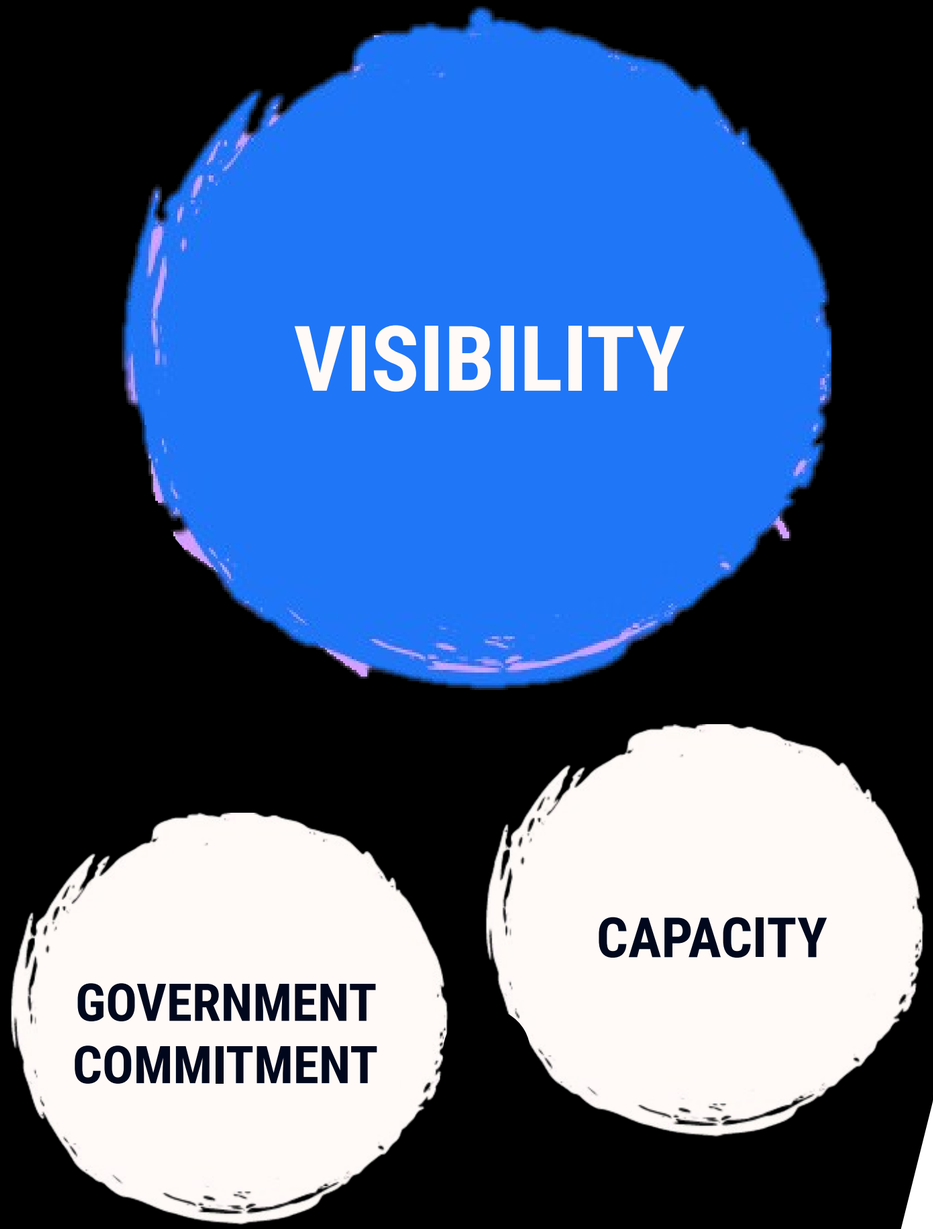
Government investment has never matched the need.

Resources don't reach the communities that need them most.



The Pillars for Action

U.S. WASH Convening



Goal: The water access gap is visible, understood, and prioritized.

Priorities

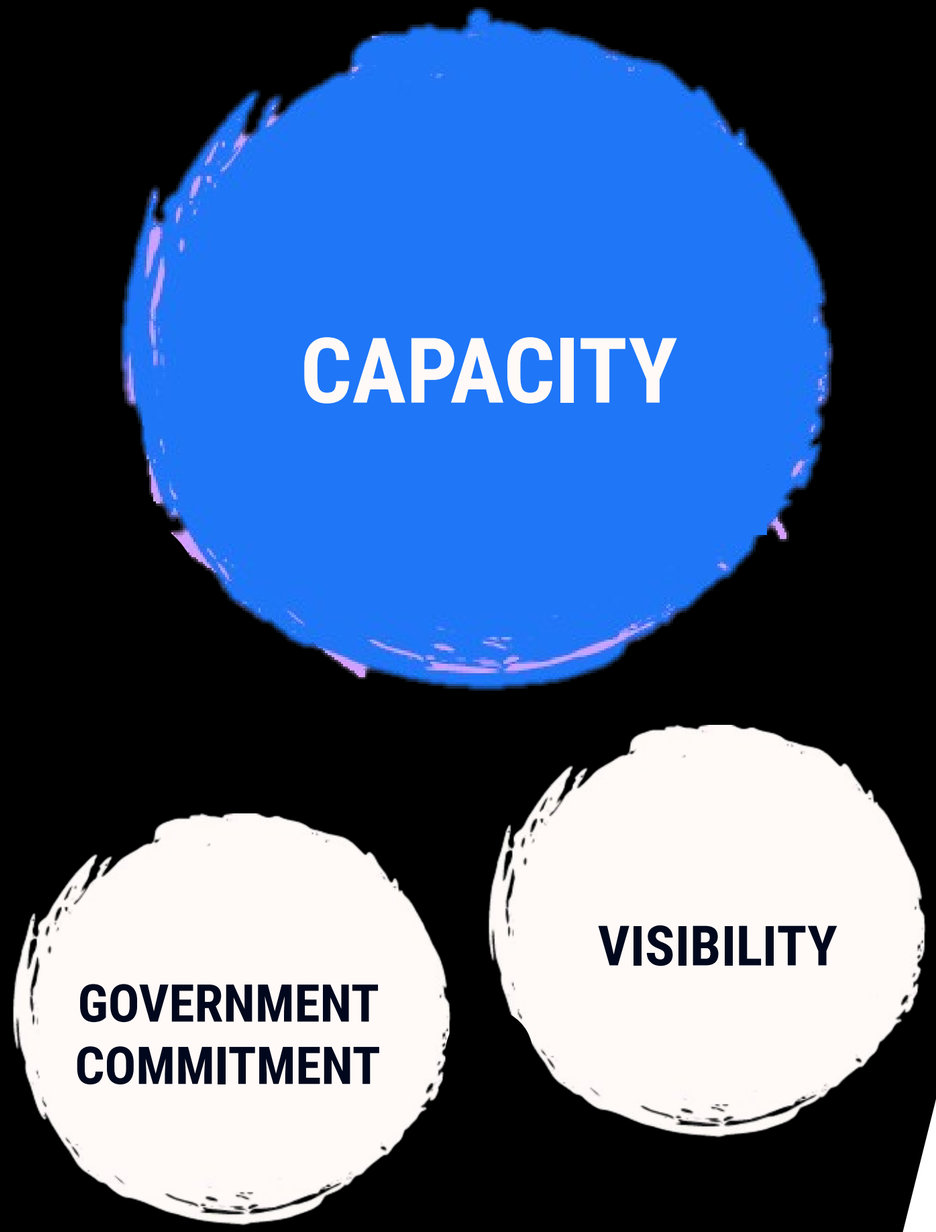
- Grow Public Understanding
- Cultivate Champions for Change
- Align the Sector



Goal: Government at all levels commits to closing the gap and builds the financing, data, and coordination to sustain that commitment through political transitions.

Priorities

- See & Own the Gap
- Coordinate Government Action
- Expand and Reauthorize Funding
- Prevent Loss of Service



Goal: Leaders who want to act can find the tools and TA to do so. Systems can share capacity through regional approaches. A trained workforce is ready to sustain infrastructure for decades.

Priorities

- Connect Communities to Resources
- Enable Regional Management Models
- Build the Workforce

UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER
FOR TRIBAL COMMUNITIES

Anne Castle
Co-Founder & Advisor

What We Do

Launched in 2020, UACW works to close the water access gap for Tribal communities and hold the federal government accountable to its treaty and trust responsibilities

We Work To:

- Understand the problem
- Educate the public
- Engage sector support
- Promote real solutions
- **Seize the moment!**



The Challenge

48% lack access to clean drinking water or basic sanitation

19x more likely to lack indoor plumbing



- Federal courts limit trust obligations
- Historic federal Indian policy left lasting structural inequities
- No dedicated O&M funding
- Difficult grant application processes

Source: Indian Health Service

Solutions We Are Advancing

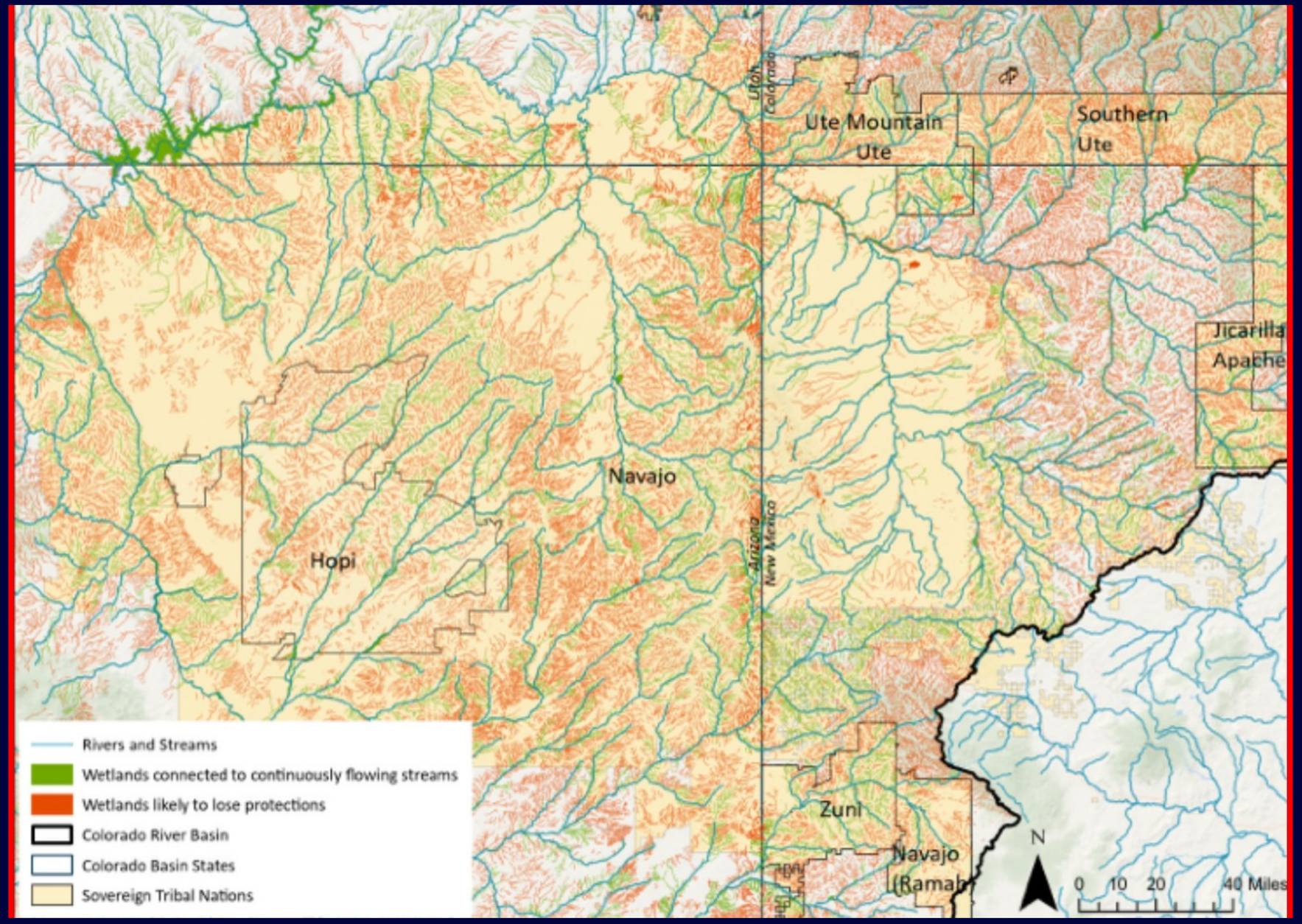
Tribal Access to Clean Water Act of 2025

S. 2272
H.R. 4377

Deep investigation into operation and maintenance challenges for Tribes

Water Justice:

- **WOTUS definition**
- **Affordability**
- **GAO and IG reports**



WOTUS

Impact of proposed definition on Tribal lands in Four Corners region

Roadmap Alignment In Action

Imagine a future where every Tribal family turns on the tap and clean water flows

Increase Visibility of Water Access Gap



Work Towards Durable Government Commitments

Advocate for Increased Funding and Capacity

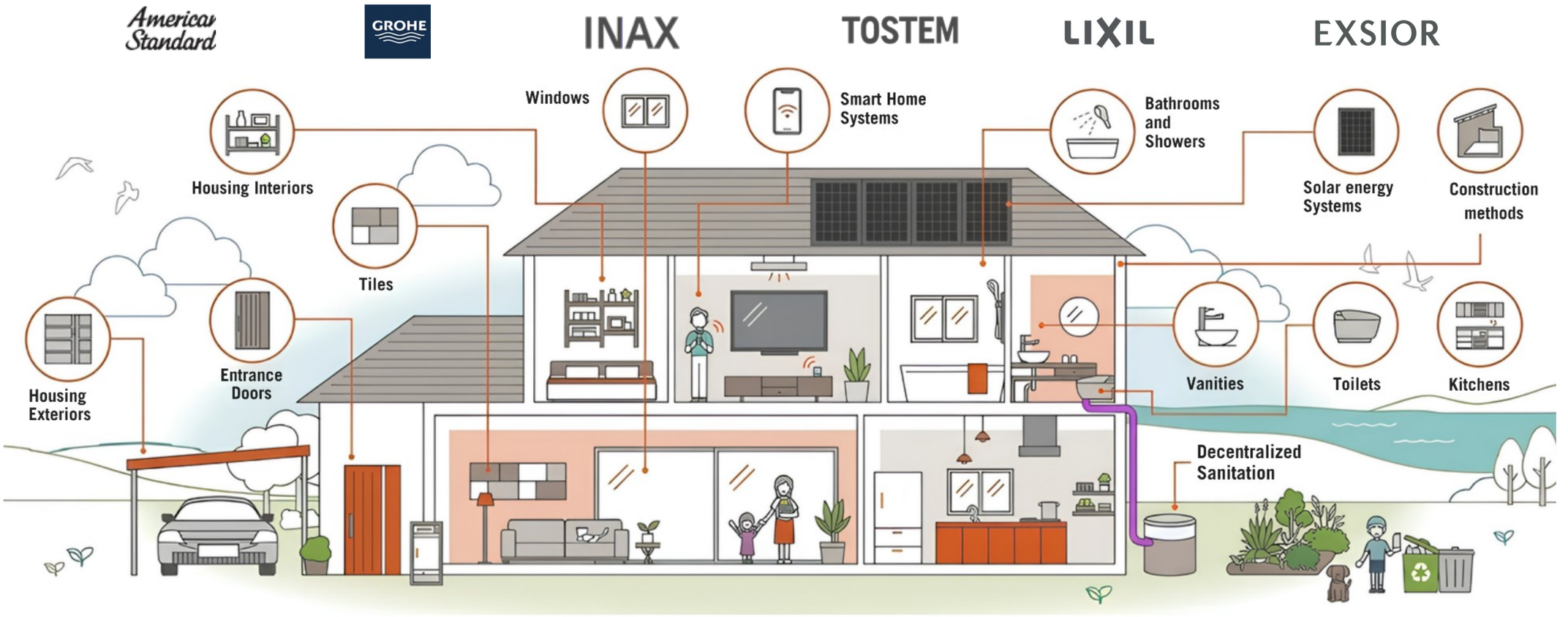
Scaling sanitation solutions in the Alabama Black Belt

NOWRA 2026 Onsite Wastewater Mega-Conference

Aaron Forbis-Stokes, PhD
Leader, Process Engineering & Certification

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LIXIL makes pioneering water and housing products that solve everyday, real-life challenges



APPROXIMATELY **53,000** EMPLOYEES

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF OVER **1 BILLION PEOPLE**

PRESENT IN **150+** COUNTRIES

OVER **100 YEARS** BRAND LEGACY

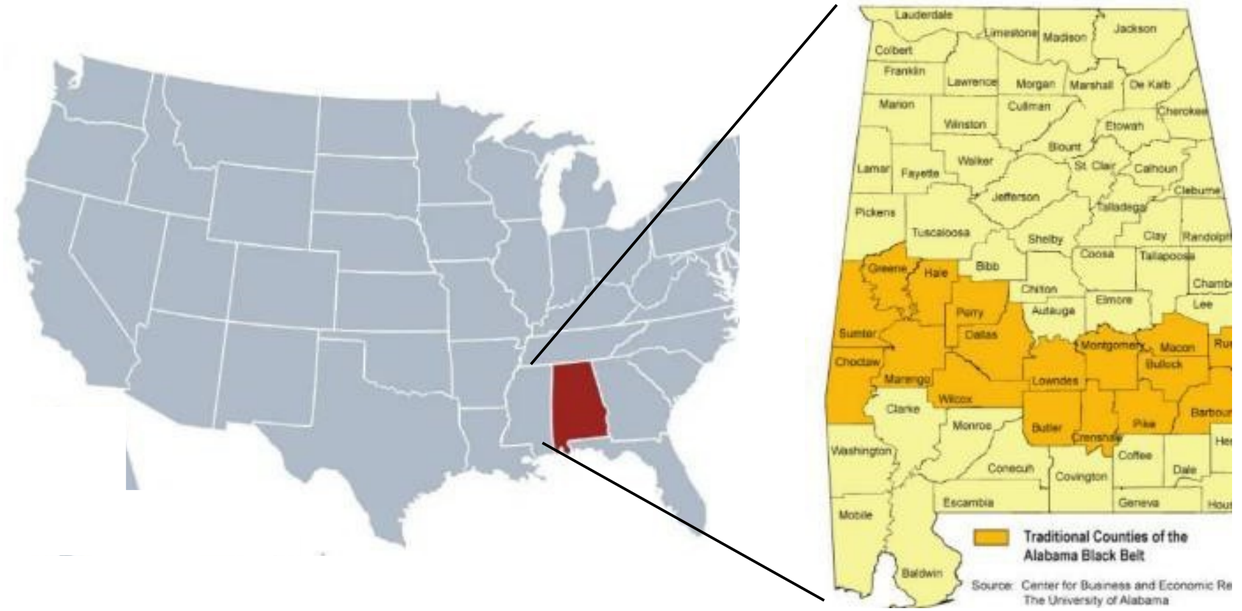
Our Introduction: Sanitation Access in the Alabama Black Belt

10K homes lack access to safe sanitation:
Have access to centralized drinking water

Majority beneath poverty level

Rural and remote with low population density

Majority mobile homes and aged infrastructure

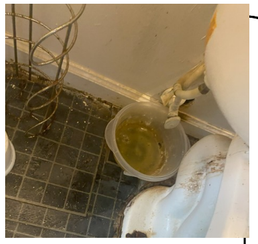






Learning from Our Work in Alabama

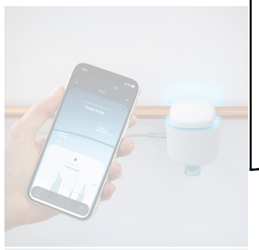
Water efficiency enabled household recruitment, provided monthly cost savings for program funds and enabled straight-pipe to drainfield conversion



Plumbing Repairs



Water Efficiency



Usage Monitoring*

HOMEOWNERS

78 Households Repaired resulting in **452,400 gal/year in year 1** and **294,400 gal/year thereafter**

2/3 reported lower water bills equating to an estimated **$8-10/month in savings**.

This **offset up to 50%** of the new sanitation maintenance fee, driving towards long term economic sustainability

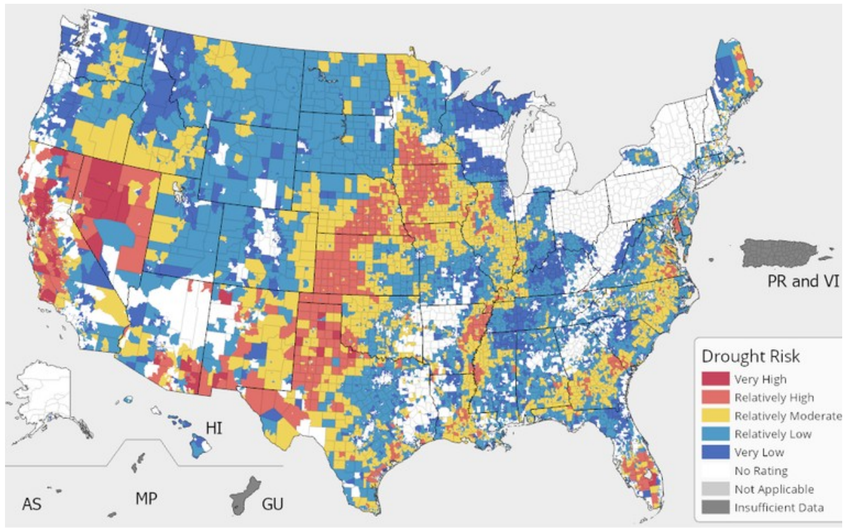
PROGRAM

Demonstrated **water use reduction** resulted in repair **drainfield sizing variances** (150→ 100 gal/b/d)

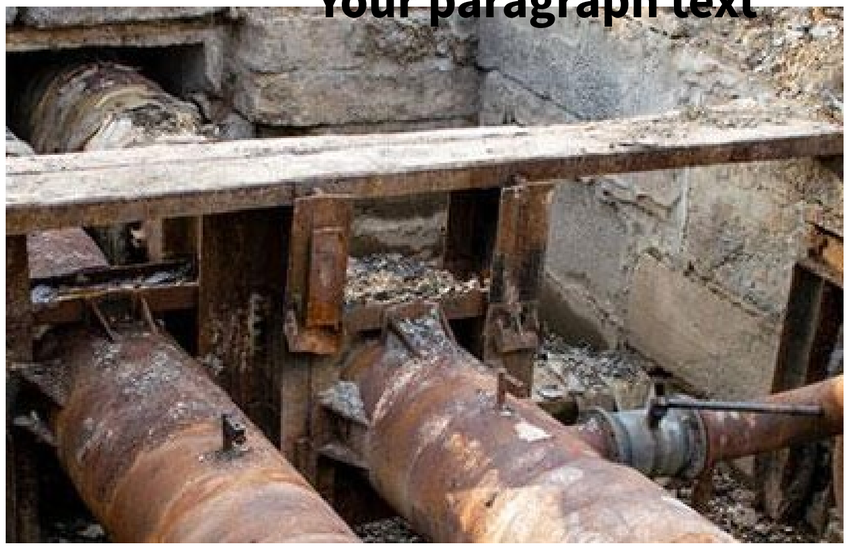
The variance **saved BBUWP 25-30% ($3,000-$5,000/hh)** in septic system CapEx, due to drainfield size reduction.

These savings **more than offset the $2000** retrofit program costs.

Other Key National Trends



Your paragraph text



Equity

More than **2M** people in the US lack access to **water** and **10s of Millions** lack access to **proper sanitation** *(Dig Deep)*

Water Stress

Precipitation in the west predicted to **decline by 20-25% by 2100** *(Nature Conservancy)*; **48%** of the lower **48 states** are currently in a **state of drought**. *(US Drought Monitor, 8/26)*

Failing Infrastructure

Of the **20 million existing onsite** systems, nearly **20% may be failing** *(EPA)*
And **> $1 Trillion needed** over next 20 years to address US water / wastewater needs *(2024, Pew Research)*

Environmental Impact

More than **700 communities in the US have CSO systems**; EPA estimates **> 40K sewer overflow** events each year. *(EPA)*

Our Work

Partnership

- Working across traditional silos to identify and address the needs of today and tomorrow
- Supporting local stakeholders driving innovation

Vessel® AMERICA'S DOMESTIC WASH COLLECTIVE

NSF IAPMO BILD BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE LOCALLY FOR DECENTRALIZED WATER SYSTEMS

MASSTC The Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Technology Center

DEQ Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

WAI WASTEWATER ALTERNATIVES & INNOVATIONS

BBUWP Black Belt Unincorporated Wastewater Program

Workforce

- Workforce development through pipeline growth and upskilling
- Building towards the plumber of the future

pmi PLUMBING MANUFACTURERS INTERNATIONAL®

WORLD PLUMBING COUNCIL

TRADE UP American Standard

GROHE INSTALLER VOCATIONAL TRAINING & EDUCATION GROHE GIVE PART OF LIXIL

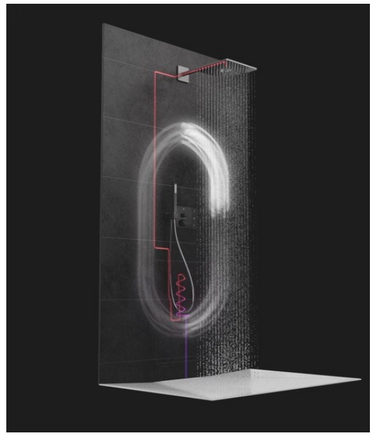
Innovation

- Bringing treatment closer to the home, solving critical environmental challenges
- Improved treatment, efficiency and data use transparency



SATO









LIXIL

MAKE BETTER HOMES A REALITY FOR EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE



Let's Connect

National Stakeholder Perspective
Infiltrator Water Technologies

Carl Thompson, P.E.
VP of Sales and Business Development
NOWRA Gov't Relations Committee Chair
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About Infiltrator Water Technologies

Founded in **1987**
Corporate HQ: Old Saybrook, CT

1,000+
Employees Company-Wide

Nine Manufacturing Facilities
AL, IL, **KY,** NC, NH, LA, OR (2), TX

190+
Granted or Pending Patents

Acquired by **ADS** in 2019

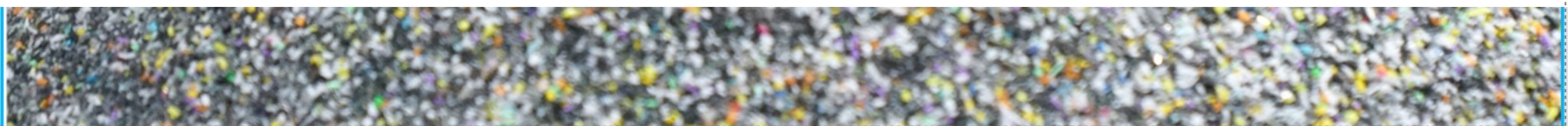
Acquired **Orenco** in 2024

- Largest U.S. Manufacturer of Onsite and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems
- Most of the onsite systems installed in the U.S. in 2025 used Infiltrator components
- **Partnerships** with Habitat for Humanity and NOWRA

Recycling is an Infiltrator Core Competency



- ✓ Infiltrator/ADS – Second Largest Plastic Recycler in North America
- ✓ Infiltrator Consumed More Than 150 Million Pounds of Recycled Plastics in 2025
- ✓ Tanks and Drainfield Products are Made With 95% Recycled Plastic



Infiltrator's Family of Products



TANKS

IM-Tanks
CM-Tanks
Potable Tanks
GIT-Tanks



DRAINFIELD

Quick4 Chambers
Quick4 Plus Chambers
Quick5 Chambers
Arc Chambers
EZflow



COMBINED TREATMENT AND DISPERSAL

Advanced Enviro-Septic (AES)
AeroFin
Advanced Treatment Leachfield (ATL)



ADVANCED TREATMENT

ECOPOD
ENVIRO-AIRE
Whitewater
Package Plants



TANK RISERS

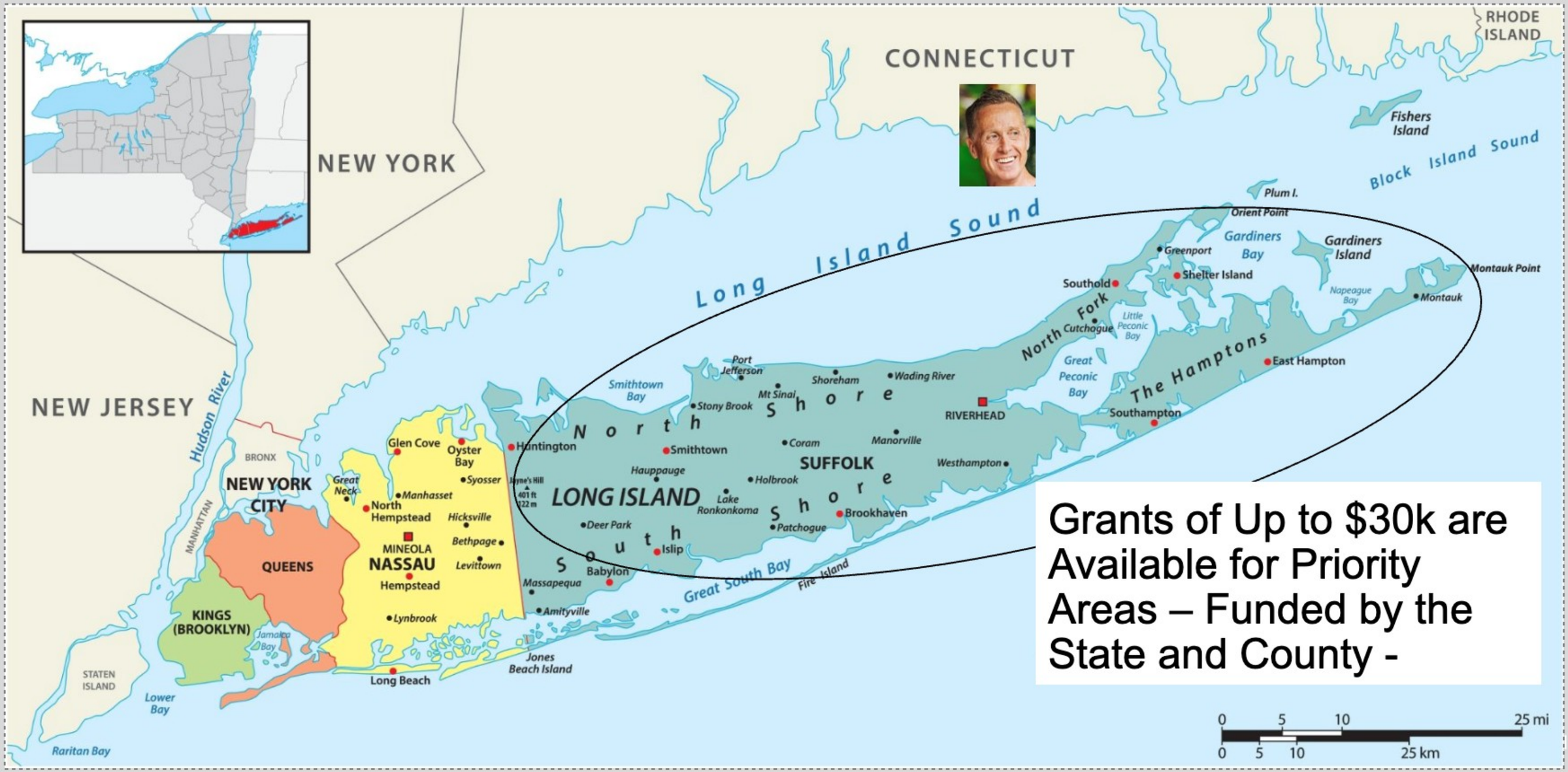
EZsnap Risers
EZset Risers



PUMP CONTROLLERS

Aquaworx and Infiltrator Controls

Suffolk County, New York – Well On There Way to Replacing 200,000 Cesspools



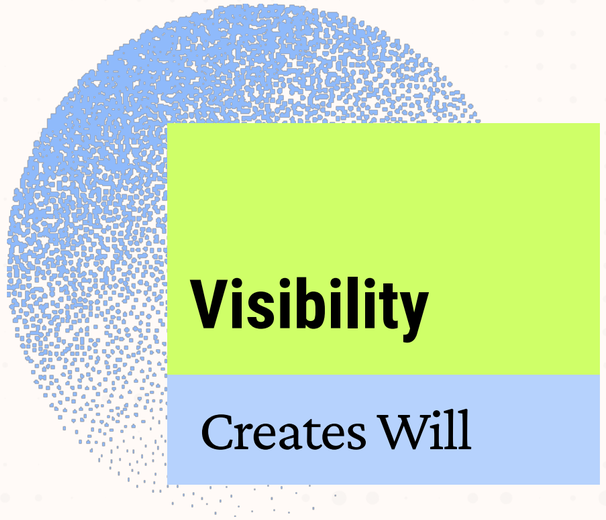
Grants of Up to $30k are Available for Priority Areas – Funded by the State and County -

Streamlined Permitting Portal for Cesspool Replacement in Suffolk, County Long Island – Targeting **1,000 replacements/year** per inspector

- Contractor takes photos of the existing system to prove it is substandard (i.e. block cesspool)
- Contractor outlines existing and proposed systems and then details a hand sketch of what is proposed
- Contractor uploads information into the permitting portal
- NY has waived permitting fees
- Health Department Staff monitors the portal, reviews, and comment online
- Plans are typically approved within 24 hours
- Upon installation, the contractor uploads final documentation such as as-builts, installation certification paperwork.



Near-Term Signals of Progress



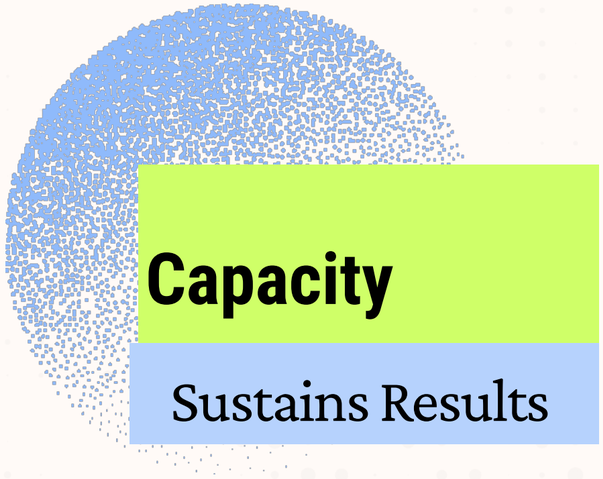
- Awareness of water challenges endures beyond crises.
- The WASH sector coordinates messaging.
- Policymakers have direct exposure to communities.
- Cross-sector coordination is underway.

Near-Term Signals of Progress



- Existing federal funding remains intact.
- Water access questions restored & standard definitions.
- Tribal water settlements & programs advance.
- Regular cross-agency dialogue and program alignment.
- At least one focus state commits to addressing the gap.

Near-Term Signals of Progress



- Communities connect to existing TA and training.
- Regional models are documented and shared.
- Growing support for existing workforce.

Where Vessel Will Focus First

Create the messaging and data effort

Dialogue between decision makers and communities

Defend and expand the funding

Build state momentum

Connect communities to resources

Support the workforce

Convene the sector



Big picture, we have to keep asking: is the gap actually closing?

If not, we must adapt.

Q&A

Explore the National Roadmap

