



# Advancing Nutrient Trading within the Circular Water Economy

May 28, 2025

Central State Water  
Environment Association

98<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Madison, WI





# Thanks for the Collaboration!



**Fidan Karimova**

Senior Director, Circular Water

[fkarimova@wef.org](mailto:fkarimova@wef.org)

**Steve Dye**

Senior Director, Government Affairs

[sdye@wef.org](mailto:sdye@wef.org)

**Victoria Weitekamp**

Manager, Community Engagement

[vweitekamp@wef.org](mailto:vweitekamp@wef.org)



**Mohammed Haque**

Executive Director

[mhaque@cswea.org](mailto:mhaque@cswea.org)

WALTON FAMILY  
FOUNDATION

**Amy Saltzman**

Senior Program Officer

[asaltzman@wffmail.com](mailto:asaltzman@wffmail.com)

**Bartlett Durant**

Local Choice Marketing, LLC

[bartlett.durand@me.com](mailto:bartlett.durand@me.com)

# WEF will deliver on a life free of water challenges by achieving three strategic goals

Building the workforce and skills needed to advance circular water

## Goal 1

Attract and develop a diverse and passionate water workforce



## Goal 2

Cultivate a purpose-driven water community to sustainably solve water challenges for all



## Goal 3

Lead the transformation to the circular water economy



## The Result

By 2028, **significant progress** on our mission to build an **inspired water community** in pursuit of human and environmental well-being

Enabling the development of innovative solutions

# What is the Circular Water Economy?

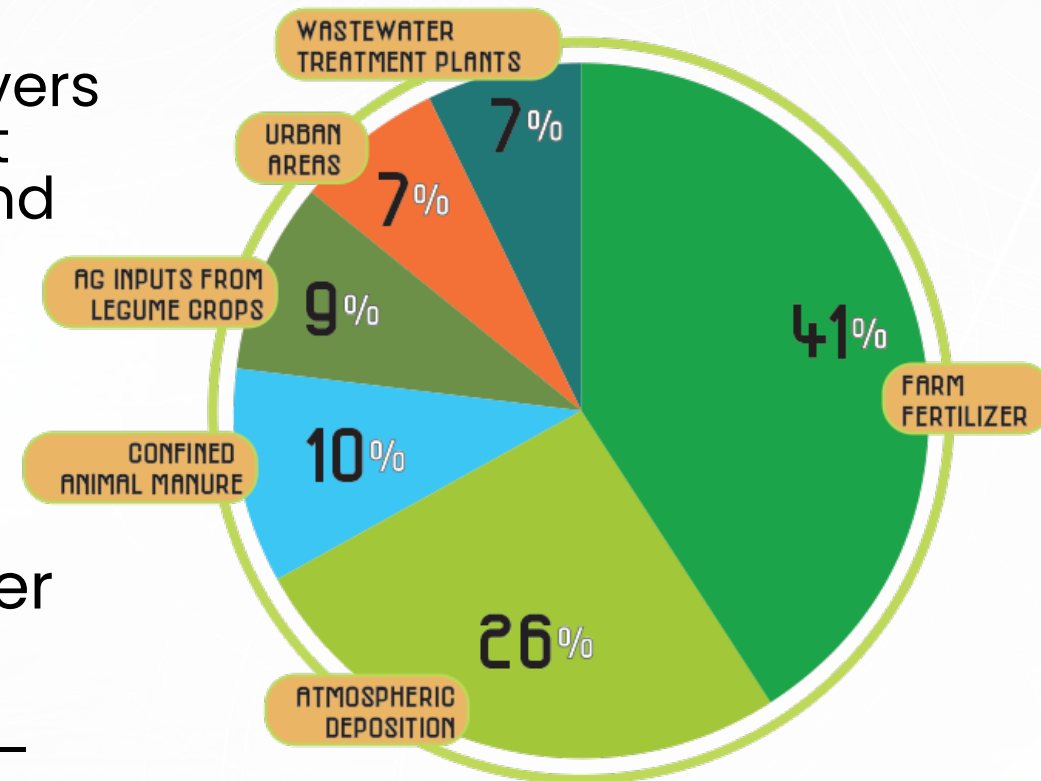
## Circular Water Economy Defined

A Circular Water Economy recycles and recovers resources within the water use and treatment cycle to maximize value for people, nature, and businesses.

### WEF's CWE Initiatives:

- Build a Circular Water Sector
- Elevate the Treatment Plant as the Driver for Circularity
- Support the Shift to Circularity in Water-Intensive Industries

SOURCES OF NITROGEN DELIVERED TO THE GULF OF MEXICO



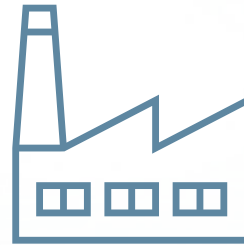
Source: USGS, 2016

<https://www.usgs.gov/news/challenge-tracking-nutrient-pollution-2300-miles>

# Treatment plants can link the water sector with water-intensive industries.

## Build a Circular Water Sector

- Convert waste to resources
- Intensify processes
- Develop new water resources
- Protect and restore watersheds



## Elevate the Treatment Plant as the Driver for Circularity

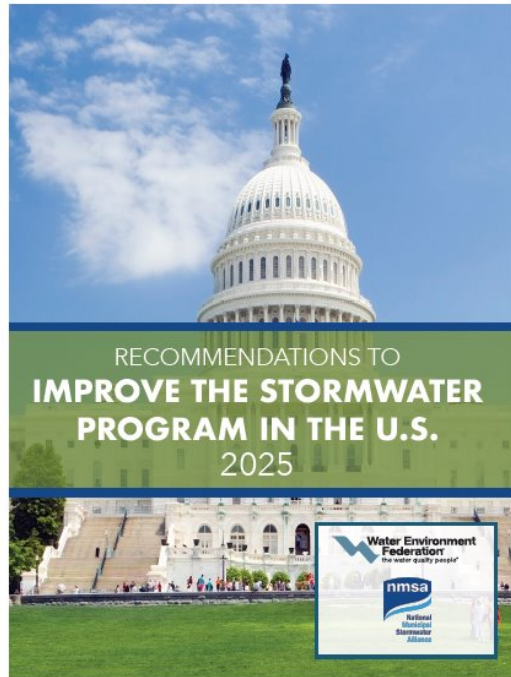
- Develop a standard language for circular water
- Document and champion circular water success stories

## Support the Shift to Circularity in Water-Intensive Industries

- Build markets for resources
- Improve water use efficiency
- Reduce impacts on watersheds
  - Catalyze technological innovation



# WEF's Nutrient Trading Policy Efforts



- SUPPORT MARKET-BASED APPROACHES FOR COST-EFFECTIVE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

*Request: Develop permitting and funding policies that encourage and incentivize using market-based approaches to address stormwater permitting requirements and advance related community goals*

## No Community Left Behind



- IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTARY REGIONALIZATION, CONSOLIDATION, COOPERATIVES AND SHARED SERVICES, PARTICULARLY FOR THE BENEFIT OF LOWER INCOME, LOWER RESOURCED COMMUNITIES
- SAFE-HARBOR IN CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES



## WEF Water Advocates Program



## ***CALLS-TO-ACTION:***

- FY26 BUDGET
- BIOSOLIDS & CWE SUPPORT
- PFAS LIABILITY EXEMPTION
- WIPPES ACT

# WEF will deliver on a life free of water challenges by achieving three strategic goals

## Workshop Goals

### Goal 1

Identify concrete lessons in nutrient trading you can implement in your operation

### Goal 2

Create multiple connections to follow up on implementation of a watershed-focused program

### Goal 3

Help determine opportunities for national water quality efforts