FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Travis Loop, 703.684.2465, tloop@wef.org

Over 100 Individuals Now Certified for Jobs in Green Infrastructure Through New Training Program

ALEXANDRIA, VA – The Water Environment Federation (WEF) and DC Water announce that 46 individuals recently completed a new job program that provides training and certification in construction, inspection, and maintenance of green infrastructure, a fast-growing approach to reduce stormwater pollution.

More than 100 individuals in Baltimore, Fairfax, Va.; Harrisburg, Pa.; Milwaukee, Montgomery County, Md.; Pittsburgh, and Washington, D.C. have now completed the training and earned certifications under the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program (NGICP) in 2017.

Over the past year, WEF, DC Water, and a group of utilities from across the nation have been working to develop the NGICP. Designed to meet international best practice standards, the certification will promote a skilled green workforce, help streamline the process of connecting qualified talent to in-demand jobs, support community-based job creation in U.S. cities, and establish national standards for professionals seeking to work on green infrastructure projects. Green infrastructure is an approach to stormwater management that mimics the natural water cycle and can include green roofs, pervious pavement, rain gardens, rain barrels, and other approaches.

"The overwhelming interest in the National Green Infrastructure Certification Program has confirmed the need to train people to work in this growing segment of the water sector," said WEF Executive Director Eileen O'Neill. "Through the program we have a tremendous opportunity to promote the implementation of green infrastructure projects and develop a skilled workforce for the betterment of our communities, economy, and environment."

The NGICP is intended to verify that all trainees have a standard set of skills and abilities, which will make those workers more valuable and marketable if they choose to work in other parts of the country. Additional pilot NGICP training will be held in fall 2017 with exams in November and the program is projected to roll out nationally in 2018.

"We are preparing a workforce for the jobs we know are coming to support green infrastructure projects here in the District of Columbia and across the nation," said George Hawkins, CEO and General Manager of DC Water. "Armed with the training and skills this program provides, these certificants will blaze a trail that many more will follow."

Housed under WEF's Stormwater Institute, the NGICP was developed in partnership with DC Water and with the support of a growing number of utilities to help advance the program nationwide. Current NGICP partnering organizations include the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (Mass.), Capital Region Water (Pa.), City of Baltimore Department of Public Works (Md.), Fairfax County (Va.), Kansas City Water Services Department (Mo.), Louisville Metropolitan Sewer District (Ky.), Metropolitan Sewer District of Greater Cincinnati (Ohio), Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (Ill.), Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (Wis.), Montgomery County (Md.), New Orleans Delegation (La.), New York City Department of Environmental Protection, Pittsburgh Water and Sewer Authority (Pa.), and San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (Calif.).

For more information, please visit www.ngicp.org or send an email to ngicp@wef.org.

<center>###</center>

About WEF
The Water Environment Federation (WEF) is a not-for-profit technical and educational organization of 34,000 individual members and 75 affiliated Member Associations representing water quality professionals around the world. Since 1928, WEF and its members have protected public health and the environment. As a global water sector leader, our mission is to connect water professionals; enrich the expertise of water professionals; increase the awareness of the impact and value of water; and provide a platform for water sector innovation. To learn more, visit www.wef.org.