



WATER LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY: SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY AND DATA CENTER COEXISTENCE

Team 2
Lake Cohort

Water Leadership Accountability



The responsibility of organizations and leaders to:

- Make informed water management decisions
- Measure outcomes
- Report performance transparently
- Take action when risks arise

Water Value

Water creates value across three dimensions:



Environmental

- Ecosystem health
- Water quality
- Resource conservation

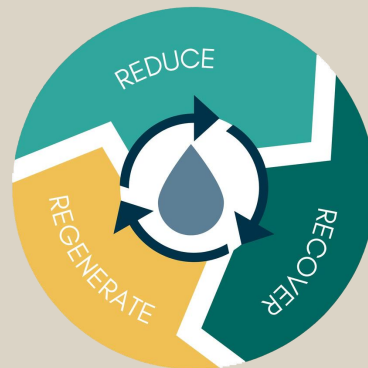
Economic

- Reliable operations
- Reduced infrastructure costs
- Business continuity

Social

- Public trust
- Equity
- Community resilience

Circular Water Economy



Reduce

Cut operational costs and environmental impact by minimizing water use and waste.

Recover

Extract value from wastewater through nutrient, energy, and material recovery.

Regenerate

Reinvest in nature by restoring ecosystems and recharging groundwater supplies.

Case Study: Quincy, Washington & Microsoft Data Center



Background

Microsoft selected Quincy because of:

- Reliable hydropower
- Cool climate
- Available land

Initially:

- Heavy dependence on municipal groundwater
- Evaporative cooling systems

As the campus expanded:

- Water demand increased
- Groundwater quality created treatment challenges
- Municipal infrastructure experienced growing pressure

The Challenge vs The Solution

Challenges

Increasing:

- Water consumption
- Treatment costs
- Infrastructure strain
- Community concerns

Solutions

Microsoft shifted toward:

- Industrial water reuse
- Expanded water sources
- Closed-loop cooling
- Better treatment technologies
- Improved water efficiency



Quincy Water Reuse Utility Process Sites



- **Environmental**
 - Reduced freshwater withdrawals
 - Improved reuse rates
 - Better water quality
- **Economic**
 - Lower lifecycle costs
 - Reduced operational risks
 - Infrastructure savings
- **Social**
 - Community trust
 - Reliable water service
 - Transparent reporting

Measurable Success



Measurable Success: Environmental

- Reduced freshwater withdrawals
- Improved reuse rates
- Better water quality



Measurable Success: Economic

- Lower lifecycle costs
- Reduced operational risks
- Infrastructure savings

Property Tax Trajectory: Quincy, WA (2006 vs. 2013 vs. 2025/2026)				
Metric	2006 (Pre-Investment)	2013 (Post-Investment)	2025/2026 (Current Era)	Long-Term Trend Change
Total Assessed Value (Top 10)	\$312.97 Million	\$1.87 Billion	\$6.13 Billion	Increased ~1,858%
Total Taxes Paid (Top 10)	\$4.24 Million	\$23.98 Million	\$54.27 Million	Increased ~1,180%
Top 10 % Share of Total County Tax	6.40%	21.73%	~35% to 40%	Heavily consolidated corporate base
Quincy City Property Levy Rate (per \$1,000)	\$3.12 per \$1,000	\$1.62 per \$1,000	\$0.87788 per \$1,000	Decreased by ~72%
Top Corporate Taxpayer	JR Simplot (\$70.7M)	REC Solar (\$10.13M)	Microsoft (~\$25M+)	Shifted from Agriculture to Tech

Sources: Quincy property tax and assessment records [1]; Port of Quincy [2]; Source ONE Columbia Basin, "How much have data centers actually lowered property taxes in Quincy?" [3].

Measurable Success: Social

- Community trust
- Reliable water service
- Transparent reporting

New City of
Quincy
Police
Department
Building



Quincy
Public
Library



Rebuilt
Quincy
Medical
Center



Conclusion



Water leadership is most effective when accountability turns data into informed decisions that create measurable environmental, economic, and social value. The Quincy case study shows that a Circular Water Economy depends not only on innovative technology but also on transparent leadership, collaboration, and ongoing performance measurement. As water challenges grow, accountable leadership will be essential to building resilient communities and sustaining water resources.

Team 2

WLI 2026

Thank You

Special thanks to George Kansas, Claudia Trapp
and the City of Quincy, Washington.

September 29, 2026

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