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TODAY'S NEWS

EPA to scale wastewater assistance pilot program

The Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday confirmed that it would expand a pilot program designed to help low-income and rural communities determine their needs and apply for federal funding for wastewater and water infrastructure construction. The program initially supported 11 communities, but is being expanded to cover 150 more. "With focused attention, with the funding that the President has so successfully championed...we really can make a difference for those over two million people again are still living without the basics," said EPA official Radhika Fox.

Full Story: [The Hill](#) (2/13)





Evolution of Experimentation

The latest experimentation benchmark study from Optimizely packs research data from 1.1K+ experiments. Learn better ways to research, ideate, and develop experiments. [Read the report.](#)

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Trinidad and Tobago declares emergency after oil spill

An overturned ship began leaking oil off the coast of Trinidad and Tobago last week and "the situation is not under control," said Prime Minister Keith Rowley on Sunday. "This is a national emergency and therefore it will have to be funded as an extraordinary expense," said Rowley. Buoy booms and divers were deployed to help contain the spill with limited success.

Full Story: [The Hill](#) (2/12)





The rise of CTV in marketing

Combined with advancements in programmatic technology and AI-driven tools, CTV has created new opportunities for marketers to connect with their target audiences and drive campaign results. Join industry experts as they explore which trends you should embrace and how to integrate CTV with other marketing strategies. [Register now.](#)

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INFRASTRUCTURE WATCH

NAWC CEO: Many water systems vulnerable to cyber threats

Most National Association of Water Companies members have cybersecurity plans in place, but the same cannot be said of many of the 50,000 drinking water systems in the US and federal action is needed to safeguard these facilities from cyberattacks, writes NAWC President and CEO Robert Powelson. "We are calling on Congress to authorize the selection and creation of a water risk and resilience organization that would develop, implement and enforce cybersecurity risk and resilience requirements responsive to cyber threats and the needs of drinking and wastewater systems," writes Powelson.

Full Story: [The Hill](#) (2/13)



Design-build wastewater project a record for Va. county

Construction is underway on a design-build project to upgrade the H.L. Mooney Advanced Water Reclamation Facility in Virginia. The \$200 million project is the biggest

in the history of the Prince William County Service Authority and comprises 19 components, with upgrades such as the construction of a pre-treatment facility and rehabilitation of existing infrastructure.

Full Story: [Potomac Local News \(Stafford, Va.\) \(2/12\)](#)



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FUNDING AND FINANCING

Mass. city gets \$4.3M state grant for wastewater work

Massachusetts has directed \$51 million in grants funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the American Rescue Plan Act to 12 communities, including a \$4.3 million grant to Oak Bluffs for wastewater treatment improvements. Oak Bluffs has also secured approval from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust for a low-interest \$26 million loan.

Full Story: [The Martha's Vineyard Times \(Mass.\) \(2/13\)](#)



STORMWATER

Caltrans eyes options for flood-prone areas in city

The California Department of Transportation is seeking flood-control protections for several areas in Marin and, although the effort is still in the early planning phases, the strategy could involve elevating or relocating infrastructure, says spokesperson Matt O'Donnell. "The goal of the project is to provide community protection and safe access in the face of near- and long-term sea-level rise in a way that does not degrade the sensitive habitat of the shoreline estuaries," says O'Donnell.

Full Story: [Marin Independent Journal \(San Rafael, Calif.\) \(2/13\)](#)



RESEARCH, INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

New test can accurately detect PFAS in under 3 minutes

A new method of detecting toxic per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances in three minutes or less developed by scientists at the New Jersey Institute of Technology is a significant improvement upon existing technology, which can currently take hours and is much less sensitive. The detection test utilizes paper spray mass spectrometry and can be used to test water, food packaging and soil samples.

Full Story: [Food Safety Magazine \(2/13\)](#)



WORKFORCE

3 strategies to keep your top talent on the team



(boygovideo/Getty Images)

Improve the chances of your top talent sticking around by creating a sense of belonging, encouraging them to think outside the box and leveraging AI in training to help them improve communication skills, writes Juan Betancourt, the CEO of Humantelligence. "Meeting each employee where they are will go a long way toward fostering the trust and belonging you need to execute your vision for the team," Betancourt notes.

Full Story: [SmartBrief/Leadership \(2/13\)](#)



TODAY AT WEF

New standards for the design of WRRFs



(WEF)

Regulation, investment and engineering drive the demand for information. Based on the expertise of hundreds of water quality experts, Standards for Design of Water Resource Recovery Facilities (WEF Standard 8-23, or WEF 8) puts critical design information at one's fingertips with concise tables and bulleted lists. WEF 8 consolidates key design parameters

from a number of references into one easy-to-use set of standards. [Order today!](#)



WEF Fellows program accepting nominations



(WEF)

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your nominations for the 2024 Fellows Program by February 29, 2024. [Learn more about the WEF Fellows program](#) criteria and how to apply or nominate a WEF member.



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