

The **WateReuse Industrial Reuse Committee** (IRC) was convened in March 2011 to support the companies, utilities, and service providers now working together to develop industrial water reuse. The committee provides industrial water users with a forum to share their experiences, explore new technologies, and advocate for legislative and regulatory changes that promote industrial water reuse. The **70 active members** of the IRC have identified **five interest areas**, including:

- cooling
- manufacturing
- food processing
- high-purity applications
- internal reuse.

IRC members also participated in a meeting convened by the WateReuse Research Foundation in December 2011 to review research needs for industry. That meeting resulted in the **recent funding of a research project called “Analysis of Technical and Organizational Issues in the Development and Implementation of Industrial Reuse Projects” (WRF 12-03)**, designed to help business and utilities work together to facilitate industrial reuse. This project is expected to be completed sometime later this calendar year.

In 2012 IRC began a series of workshops and panel discussions featuring facility managers and other professionals who related their experiences with recycled water and internal reuse. Two workshops have been convened so far; the first at the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts and the second Irvine Ranch Water District. These workshops feature success stories that demonstrate the ways in which the industrial use of municipal effluent and internal reuse of wastewater can improve a company’s bottom line and insulate their core business from variations in water supply. The next workshop will take place one week from today at the Santa Clara Valley Water District.

A webinar series debuted in November 2012 and will continue with a webinar on water reuse in the energy sector scheduled for March 2013. The IRC has also become involved in national legislation, as **IRC Co-Chair Jon Freedman coordinates support for the reintroduction of S.3352, “Expanding Industrial Energy and Water Efficiency Incentives Act of 2012,”** a bill that provides tax credits to manufacturers that invest in water recycling and other efficiency technology.

Another key IRC activity involves coordination with the other industrial water use initiatives including the May 2012 meeting **“Municipal Wastewater Reuse by Electric Utilities,” convened by American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and Water Environment Federation (WEF)**, and the September 2012 **EPA workshop “The Importance of Water to the US Economy,”** which examined the use of water in key US industrial sectors. ASME also convened a subsequent workshop January 2013 to explore **“Industrial Demineralization: Best Practices and Future Directions”**.

The work of the IRC was also featured as the **lead article in the autumn 2012 issue of Water Reuse & Desalination entitled “Industrial Water Recycling Surges Forward”**. Co-authored by a handful of IRC members including water agencies, consultants, and industrial customers such as Dow Chemical, PepsiCo, Shaw Industries, Spirit AeroSystems, Air Products and BP, this article will be a spring board for a number of short customer-themed articles throughout 2013 that will detail these and other industrial reuse success stories.

Coming in 2013, the IRC will be presenting a session, **“Perspectives on Industrial Water Reuse” at the AWWA Sustainable Water Management Conference in Nashville, Tennessee** in April. The purpose of the session will be to:

- Understand the motivation and goals of companies that practice industrial reuse
- Explore new technologies that allow water to be used more sustainably in industrial sectors.
- Discuss challenges and opportunities associated with industry’s growing concern for water supply reliability, including the potential for public-private partnerships.

A two-day **Industrial Reuse Specialty Conference** is also being planned for **December 9-10, 2013**.

For information about the WaterReuse Association, log on to www.watereuse.org. To become a member of the Industrial Reuse Committee email Zachary Dorsey (zdorsey@watereuse.org) or contact co-chairs Jon Freedman (jon.freedman@ge.com) or Eric Rosenblum (eric@envirospectives.com).