

WRAP 8.1: Key Recommendations for Communications Materials

May 28, 2024

The Water Reuse Action Plan, Action 8.1, "Compile and Develop Outreach and Communications Materials," was completed in 2024. The action resulted in a living <u>Water Reuse Communications</u> <u>Library</u>.

The action also includes "Milestone 9: Develop a set of recommendations that could be championed by associations to develop new communication materials as needed."

This report outlines the top three opportunities for new communications materials as identified by focus group participants and ongoing feedback from water reuse communicators, as of May 2024:

Opportunity #1: Develop ready-to-use graphics for different recycled water treatment plant types and treatment train processes:

- Utilities could mix and match to depict their specific treatment process.
- Workshop participants noted that stakeholder feedback is essential to determine if the treatment process graphics are clear.

Opportunity #2: Produce a fact sheet that explains potable reuse from the lens of risk assessment.

- A <u>communications piece</u> contextualizing the risk from pharmaceuticals in non-potable recycled water was created in 2012, but nothing similar exists for potable reuse.
- The 2012 communications piece was based on a rigorous scientific study, so a similar study for potable reuse would likely need to come first.
- Alternative approaches could include a communications piece explaining contaminants of emerging concern and PFAS in comparison to other contaminant sources (takeout containers, household dust, cooking implements, etc.)

Opportunity #3:

- More classroom education resources: These resources must tie into curriculum standards or they won't be used.
- A Project WET workbook for middle schoolers on water reuse exists, and many utilities may have created their own resources, more compilation and distribution of these local resources would be valuable.