

Taking Action to 2030

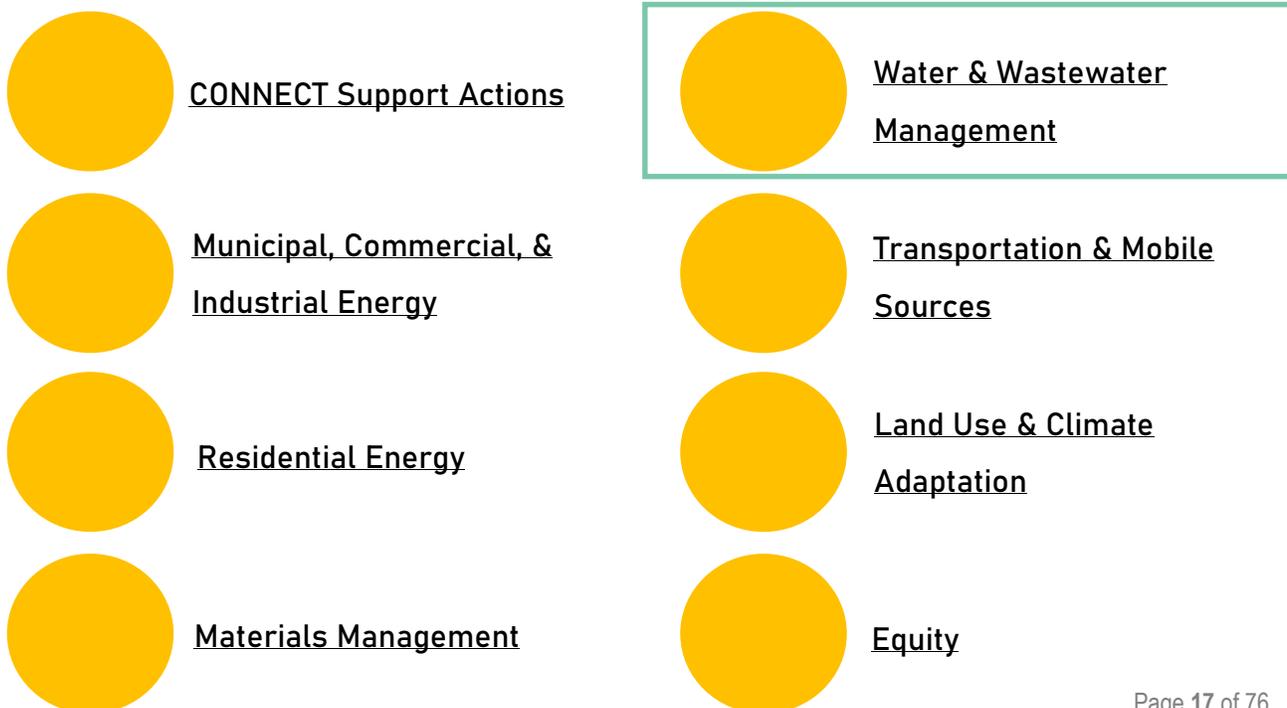
In the following chapters, CONNECT's goals and a series of objectives with actions are explored for each emissions sector. An "Objective" is an "end result", or target, and an "Action" is a means of realizing the objective. Noted on each objective is its emission reduction potential, and on each action is its [co-benefits](#) among other pertinent information. Links to resources are provided within each action. All community sectors draw on the potential actions of CONNECT, its partners, local government, residents, and businesses to achieve 30% emissions reduction by 2030, and subsequent reductions to 2050. Local governments should use and modify potential actions from these lists to implement in their own communities or climate planning efforts.

Symbol	GHG Reduction
	Small Reduction Potential
	Moderate Reduction Potential
	Large Reduction Potential

Symbol	Co-Benefit
	Supports jobs and economic prosperity
	Advances social equity
	Fosters resource security
	Improves public health and local environmental quality

Actions labeled as a "CONNECT Opportunity"  are considered climate actions that CONNECT may be able to implement in the form of a CONNECT-wide project to reduce our emissions or are actions from which members may find extra benefits when implementing together as a region.

Sectors covered will include:



Water & Wastewater Management

Although the water and wastewater management sectors are a relatively small contributor to CONNECT and its government's total greenhouse gas emissions profile, additional improvements can be made in their operations that help achieve local and regional goals of sustainability, including emissions reductions. Despite producing relatively little greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate, actions taken in the water and wastewater management sectors are arguably the most critically important for climate adaptation – ensuring CONNECT's communities are not vulnerable to the risks associated with climate change and increased precipitation. See Vulnerability Assessment for detailed information on CONNECT's water, wastewater, and landslide vulnerabilities, and how water actions can help address concerns in this sector.

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Fortunately, water & wastewater management is popular with CONNECT residents. In CONNECT's regional survey which asked residents their top climate priorities for municipalities, building green stormwater infrastructure was among the highest rated climate actions, with many other water management actions such as tree planting and regional stormwater projects within the top ten.

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This section also pertains to those local governments who own their own water delivery or wastewater services or are partners in a multi-jurisdictional water delivery and treatment arrangement (like ALCOSAN). It is also possible for local governments to partner with water utilities to accomplish these goals, if privately or otherwise owned or operated.

The following tables contain CONNECT's objectives and potential actions for water & wastewater.

	Objective	Benefits	Reduction Potential
Goal 3: Bolster CONNECT's resilience through land, water, & materials management by its members	WW1 – Implement sustainable water & stormwater initiatives		N/A
Goal 2: Replace current energy sources with renewables	WW2 – Source electricity used for water delivery and treatment systems from renewable sources		
Goal 1: Reduce energy use in our local governments and communities	WW3 – Upgrade the energy efficiency of water delivery and treatment systems		

Objective WW1 – Water/Stormwater Initiatives

Implement sustainable water & stormwater initiatives

N/A

Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?	Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?
WW-1A	Use ALCOSAN GROW Grants to install green stormwater infrastructure	-	Y	WW -1J	Create a municipal strategic plan that identifies areas of focus for tree planting, stormwater management, and forest preservation.	-	Y
WW-1B	Build green infrastructure such as green roofs , swales, rain gardens , and permeable pavers and pavement in high-risk areas	-	Y	WW -1K	Expand the scope of local hazard mitigation plans to factor in expected vulnerabilities explicitly related to climate change(i.e., precipitation)		Y
WW-1C	Incorporate Green Infrastructure language into Stormwater Management Ordinances		Y	WW- 1L	Incorporate PA DEP's Stormwater Best Management Practices into municipality's standard operating procedure	-	Y
WW-1D	Work with CoordinatePA to track adaptation projects and facilitate adaptation planning by members		Y	WW-1M	Engage in ALCOSAN flood education for residents and businesses, notify residents of flooding resources and any activities impacts on stormwater		Y
WW-1E	Partner with an organization to target green projects on vacant land	-	Y	WW -1N	Work with your surrounding communities to create a "One Water Plan" in watersheds		Y
WW-1F	Implement a pavement removal day where residents can apply to have their pavement torn up in order to create more pervious surfaces	-	Y	WW -1O	Work with Universities to map upland flooding not included in FEMA programs to help with managed retreat		Y
WW-1G	Encourage permeable paving on low-use pathways	-	Y	WW -1P	Pass an ordinance requiring developers to manage all onsite stormwater	-	Y
WW-1H	Work with Pitt Water Collaboratory to develop briefings or community		Y	WW -1Q	Get Rivers Registry watershed plans for critical areas to help with	-	Y

consensus reports that aid in adaptation & residents' understanding of climate related water issues that affect the CONNECT Region.

stormwater planning across municipal boundaries

WW-1I	Ensure municipal eligibility for funded floodplain insurance for residents by creating floodplain maps and enrolling in CRS .	-	Y	WW-1R	Partner with Pennsylvania Silver Jackets FPMS Program for a local or regional comprehensive vulnerability/cost assessment of climate impacts		Y
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Objective WW 2 – Renewable Energy

Source electricity used for water delivery and treatment systems from renewable sources 

Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?	Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?
WW-2A	ALCOSAN joins the Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium to source some or all of its electricity from a renewable supplier.		-	WW-2C	Purchase green power to offset electricity used to treat water and wastewater	-	-
WW-2B	Municipal Water Utilities in CONNECT join the Western Pennsylvania Energy Consortium to source some or all of their electricity from a renewable supplier.		-	WW-2D	ALCOSAN utilizes energy recovery technologies in its operations to reduce total energy usage from non-renewable sources used for heating and powering onsite buildings		-

Objective WW 3 – Energy Efficiency

Upgrade the energy efficiency of water delivery and treatment systems



Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?	Action Number	Action	Regional CONNECT Opportunity?	Reduces Climate Risk?
WW -1A	Upgrade the mechanical and electrical systems at municipal water facilities	-	Y	WW -1A	Use an energy use assessment tool to assess public water utility for ways to save	-	-
WW- 1B	Participate in energy efficiency incentive programs to upgrade pump efficiency	-	-	WW- 1B	Use the state's Capacity Development Program to increase capacity, safety, and efficiency of your small water utility		Y