

Water Infrastructure at a Turning Point

Throughout North America, water pipes running below our streets are in need of replacement. It's time to bring the conversation about water infrastructure above ground.

- The million miles of water pipes below our streets represent an enormous public trust largely built and paid for by earlier generations.
- Much of the water infrastructure below our streets was constructed during three periods: the late 1800s, the 1920s and during the post World War II boom.
- The pipes from these different eras are due to wear out over the next 25 years.
- In the United States alone, the cost of replacing water infrastructure in the next 25 years will top \$1 trillion, according to a 2012 study by the American Water Works Association.
- The expense of replacing water infrastructure will need to be met mostly through higher water rates that better reflect the full cost of the service.
- The stewardship of our buried water pipes falls to us, the users. Reinvesting in water infrastructure will prevent today's concerns from becoming tomorrow's crisis.

Did you know?

The average person spends less than 1% of his or her personal income for water, wastewater and water disposal services.

Let's prevent our water infrastructure from being buried and forgotten

- ◆ Pipe replacement dominates infrastructure needs in the Northeast and Midwest.
- ◆ In the South and the West, growth-related need is the dominant issue.
- ◆ A study from the American Water Works Association suggests that a typical three-person household may see additional costs of up to \$600 per year during peak reinvestment years.
- ◆ Communities that begin addressing water infrastructure today can avoid "rate shock" in the future.



**American Water Works
Association**

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