



UNC School of Government Environmental Finance Center

2024 Water and Wastewater Finance Strategies Workshop

400 South Road, The School of Government, Chapel Hill, NC

Room 2603

February 15-16, 2024

Thursday, February 15th

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| 9:00 am | Registration Check-In (Room 2603, second floor)
Continental Breakfast |
| 9:30 | Welcome and Introduction / Finance Overview
<i>Hope Thomson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 10:15 | Break |
| 10:30 | Legal Issues in Water Finance
Trends and updates on legal issues to be aware of in North Carolina that affect utility finance.
<i>Kara Millonzi, Professor, UNC School of Government</i> |
| 12:00 pm | Lunch |
| 1:00 | Rate-Setting Principles
Rate setting and equity considerations
<i>Anna Patterson, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 2:00 | Break |
| 2:15 | Self-assessing Financial Performance and North Carolina Dashboard Demo
Benchmarking and tracking your utility's financial performance. Demonstration of the 2024 NC Water and Wastewater Rates Dashboard
<i>Melanie Sanchez, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center</i> |
| 3:00 | Breakout Activity: EFC Tools
Tools breakout activities for the Viability Utility Reserve program, affordability tool, and financial health checkup tools. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activity introduction & checklist of needs (15 min)• Financial Health + Affordability Activity in breakout rooms (35 min)• Reflection (10 min) |
| 4:00 | Wrap Up |
| 4:15 | Adjourn |



Friday, February 16th

- 9:00 am **Continental Breakfast** (outside room 2603, second floor)
- 9:30 **Water System Partnerships**
Considerations for system collaboration
Justin Nolan, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 **Be Audit You Can Be: Understanding Financial Audits**
How audits are used by water and wastewater systems to evaluate financial health
Chris Nida, NC League of Municipalities
Sharon Edmundson, NC League of Municipalities
- 12:00 pm Lunch
- 1:00 **Exploring the Exchange Dashboard**
Using data to make decisions related to the Exchange tool
AR El-Khattabi, Associate Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 1:30 **System Success Story**
Lessons Learned from an NC Utility: Using available funding, programs, and support to improve the viability of their system
Amy Ratfiff, City Engineer, City of Oxford, NC
- 2:00 Break
- 2:15 **Finding the Money! Capital Finance Programs and Options**
Capital funding approaches and public programs that provide capital for future needs, followed by 30-minute Q&A with DWI staff.
Shadi Eskaf, Director, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Jon Risgaard, SRF Section Chief, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Victor D'Amato, Viable Utilities Unit Supervisor, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
Kaine Riggan, BRIC/FMA Lead, North Carolina Department of Safety
- 4:00 **Closing Statements**
4:15 Adjourn

10.0 Continuing Education Hours

Individuals seeking PDH credit should submit this agenda and license # to NC BELS.

Water Treatment Operators and Water Pollution Control Operators should sign a course attendance roster at the conclusion of the course.