



**US Water
Alliance**

Achieving Water Equity

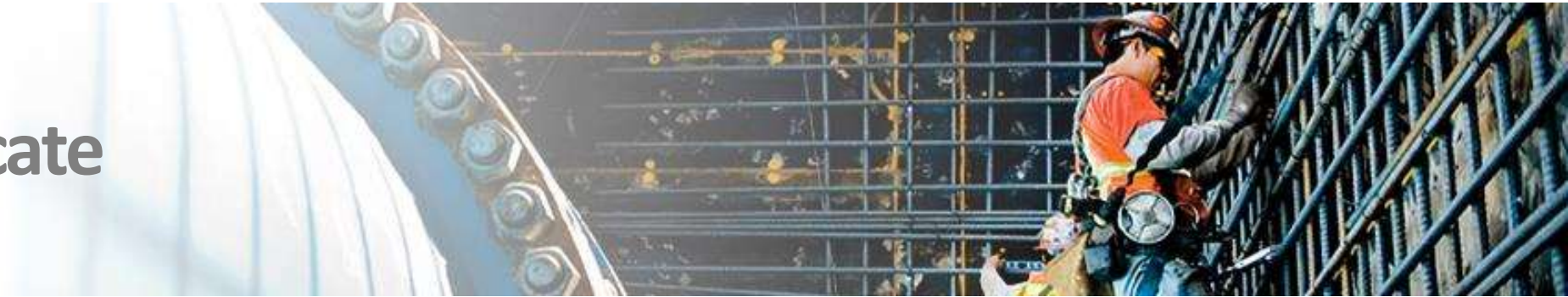
NECPUC Annual Conference

May 23, 2022



About the US Water Alliance

Educate



Accelerate



Celebrate



How it started:



AN EQUITABLE WATER FUTURE A National Briefing Paper

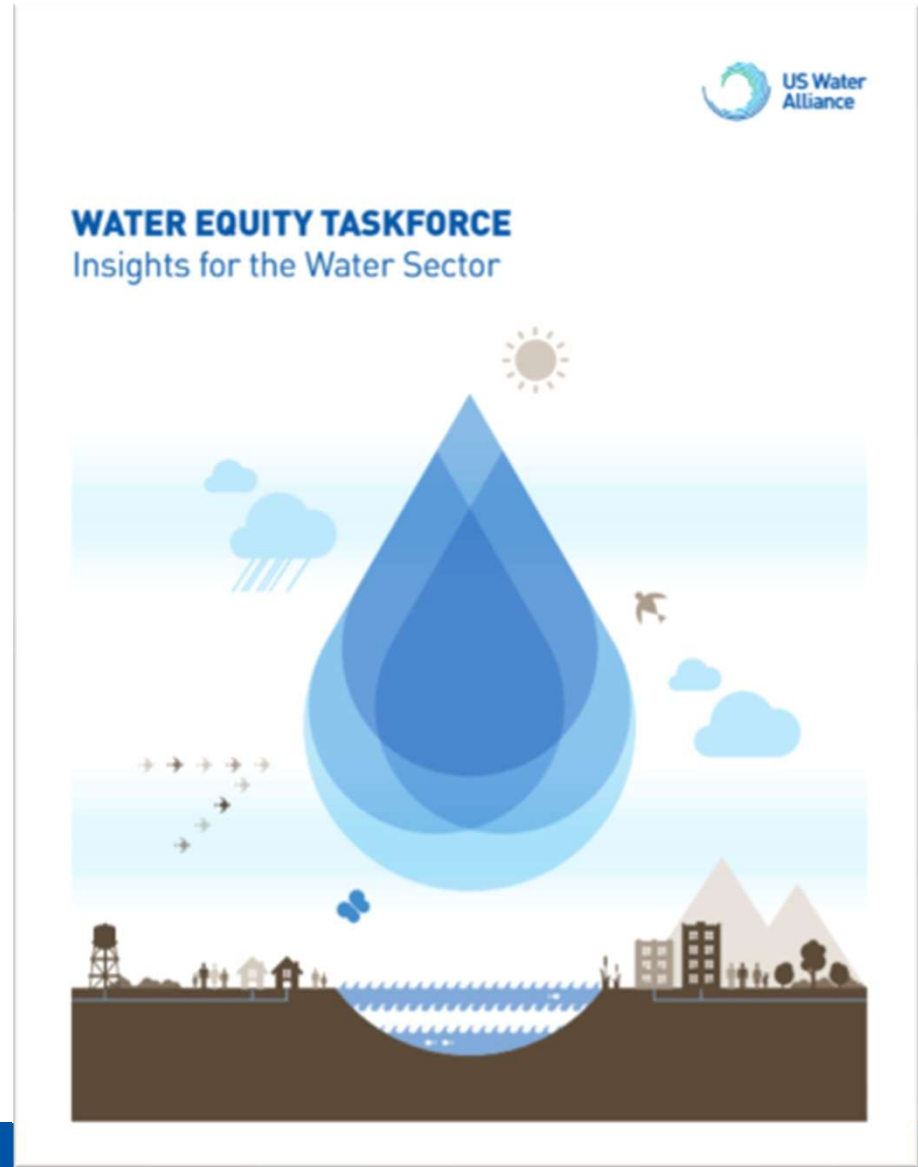


How it started:

 Milwaukee
 Atlanta
 Pittsburgh
 Louisville
 Camden
 Cleveland
 Buffalo



We learned a LOT!

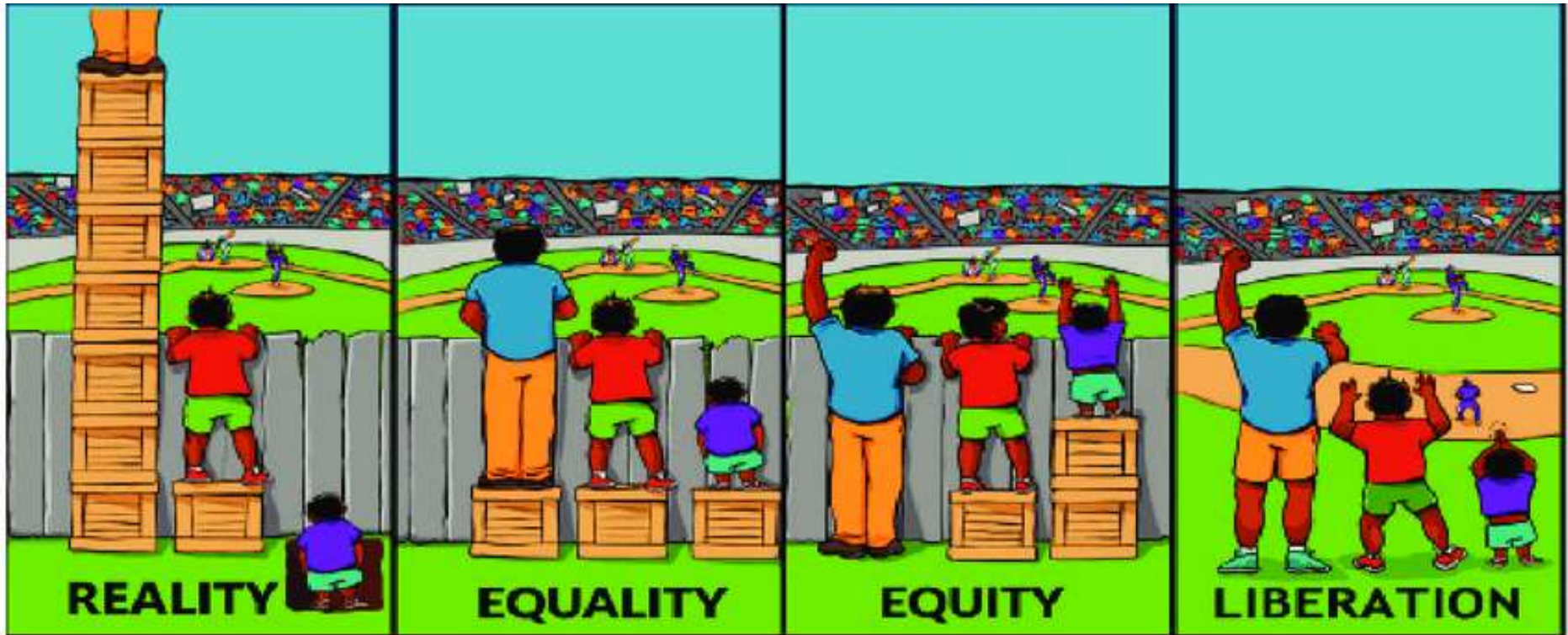


How it's going:



What does equity mean?

Equality vs. Equity



Defining Terms

Water Equity

Equity refers to **just** and **fair inclusion**—a condition in which everyone has an opportunity to **participate and prosper**.

Water equity occurs when **all communities have access to clean, safe, affordable** drinking water and wastewater services; are **resilient** in the face of floods, drought, and other climate risks; have a **role in decision-making processes** related to water management in their communities; and **share in the economic, social, and environmental benefits** of water systems.

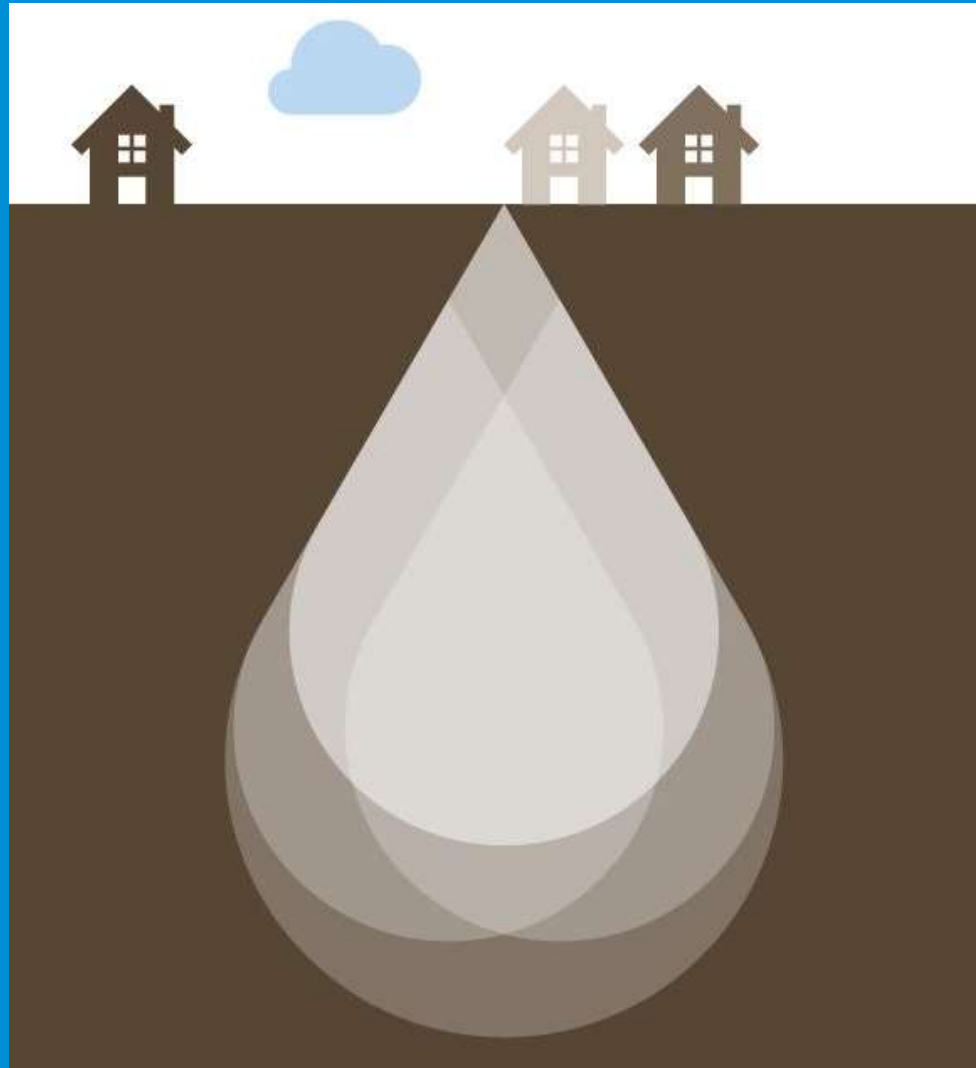
Defining Terms

Vulnerable or Historically Marginalized Communities

Those who face **historic or contemporary barriers** to economic and social opportunities and a healthy environment.

For example, communities of color, low-income people, immigrants, seniors, children, people with disabilities, people with limited English-speaking ability, tribal communities, those living in public housing, and currently or formerly incarcerated people.

Water Equity Challenges



Aging Infrastructure



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Affordability



Lack of Infrastructure



Water Quality



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Climate Impacts



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COVID-19 Impacts

STOP COVID-19

HANDS	ELBOW	FACE	SPACE	HOME
WASH THEM OFTEN	COUGH INTO IT	DON'T TOUCH IT	SAFE DISTANCE 3-6 FT	STAY HOME STAY SAFE

Signarama



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Pillars of Water Equity



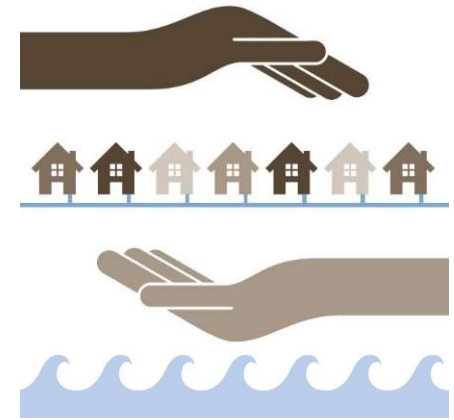
PILLAR ONE

Ensure all people have access to clean, safe, affordable water service



PILLAR TWO

Maximize the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investment



PILLAR THREE

Foster community resilience in the face of a changing climate

Pillar 1

Ensure all people have access to clean, safe, affordable water service



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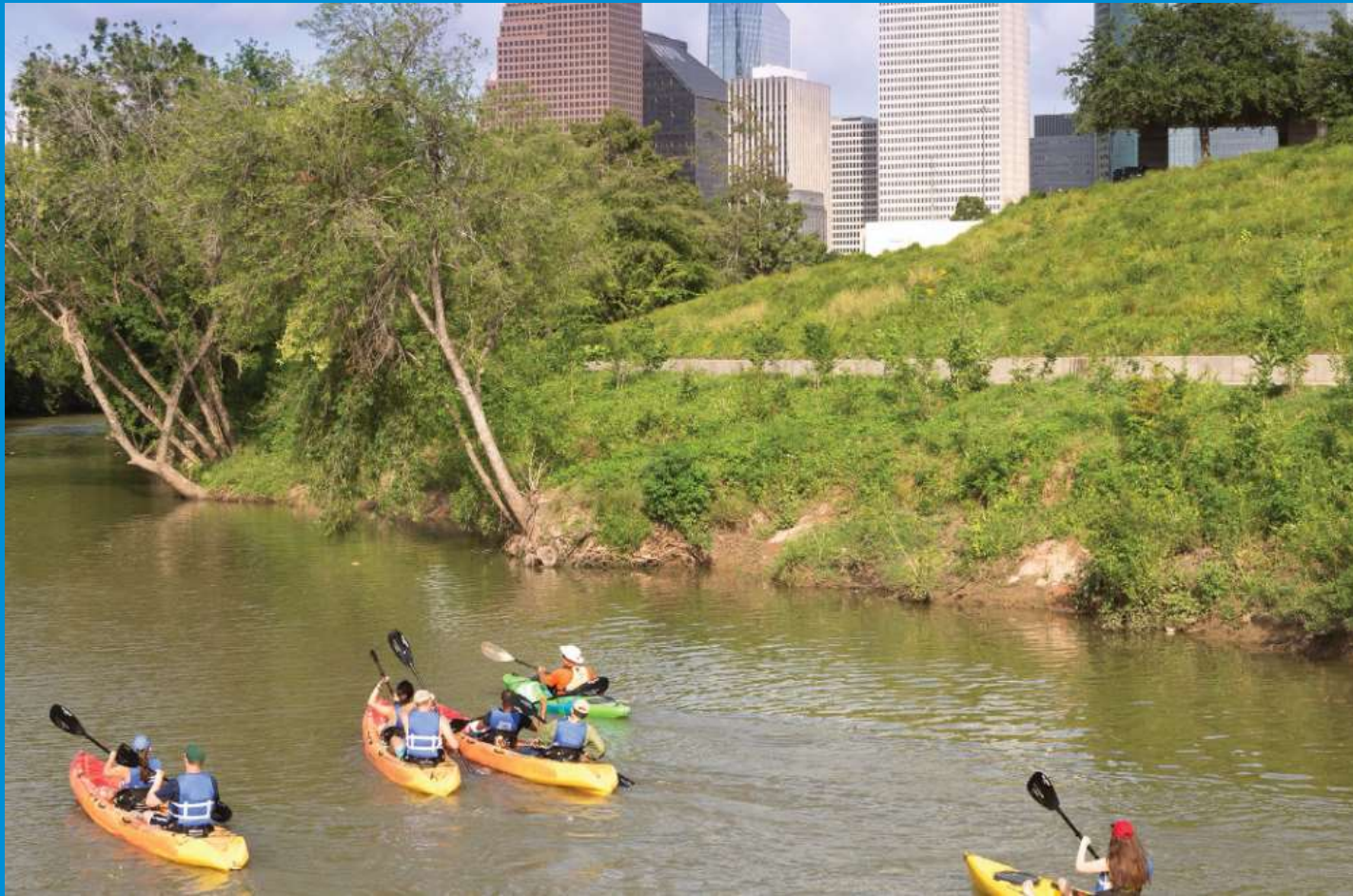
Pillar 2

Maximize the community and economic benefits of water infrastructure investment



Pillar 3

Foster community resilience in the face of a changing climate



Opportunities in Water Equity

- **Increased funding from ARPA and IJA** mean that lack of funding is less of a barrier than in decades past BUT have to fix existing barriers for this funding to be truly transformative
- **Rising interest in Equity** in the water sector and in government BUT lots of risk of failure or “equity washing”
- **National Water Assistance Programs** are up and running or in the works BUT assistance \neq affordability



Thank you!

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