

# Water Stewardship Development



Water stress poses one of the greatest risks to the economy. The World Economic Forum ranks water crises, and several other water-related risk factors, among the global risks of highest concern for doing business.

All business sectors – industry, agriculture and commercial – face water-related risks which can include operational and supplier disruptions,

increased costs, threats to their social license to operate and brand damage. In North America, water users face these risks due to droughts, water rights uncertainty, impaired water quality and reputational challenges.

Since water-related risks are material to direct operations and supply chains, your bottom-line may be impacted.

## AWS INTERNATIONAL WATER STEWARDSHIP STANDARD

WMEP Manufacturing Solutions helps businesses mitigate water-related risks while simultaneously creating value from water-related opportunities and assets by using the Alliance for Water Stewardship International Water Stewardship Standard (AWS) as a strategic framework to help sites interested in water stewardship improve their operations both within and outside their property.

The AWS Standard is an international, ISEAL compliant, standard that defines a set of water stewardship criteria and indicators for how water should be managed at a site and within the watershed in a way that is environmentally, socially and economically beneficial.

The Standard provides facility and property managers with a continual improvement framework that enables sites to commit to, understand, plan, implement, evaluate and communicate water stewardship actions.



## THE BUSINESS CASE

### Viewing water as an asset that creates value.



In addition to posing severe risk to ecosystems and communities, water crises also weaken business viability and economic well-being.

- ▶ Under current trends, almost half of the world's population is set to suffer severe water stress by 2030 with global demand for water expected to exceed supply by up to 40%.
- ▶ According to CDP's 2020 Water Report, disclosing companies reported that water-related impacts cost businesses US\$301 billion.
- ▶ The potential financial impact of water risks to businesses is over five times higher than the cost of addressing them.



*"WMEP assistance in navigating the Alliance for Water Stewardship certification process was critical. I don't think we could have done it alone. As the first airport in the world to be certified to the standard, there were many unknowns going into the process and while navigating throughout. WMEP staff, with their thorough knowledge of the certification process, were able to effectively set us up for success when it came time for our certification audit."*

Marty Piette, Airport Director, Green Bay Austin Straubel International Airport

## HOW WE CAN HELP ON YOUR JOURNEY TO WATER STEWARDSHIP

### IMPLEMENT A STANDARD

The AWS Standard can be implemented by any enterprise and site, in any sector, in any watershed around the world.

WMEP can be your resource and partner in this journey by providing a comprehensive strategic framework and put into place a stewardship plan of action that mitigates those risks while creating value from water-based assets.

### WATER STEWARDSHIP ADVISORY SERVICES

Many water users have partnered with WMEP in applying the AWS Standard and its water stewardship principles to their direct operations and supply chains.

Before companies take specific actions at the enterprise or site level, there are strategic policies and goals that need to be developed to help set an internal direction for the entire enterprise toward water stewardship excellence.

We provide companies with advisory services that include an assessment, policy and strategy development and corporate alignment to the AWS Standard framework.



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