

## 2012 Guidelines for Water Reuse

*An updated authoritative reference for facilitating further development of water reuse practices*

### Chapter 1—Introduction

Discusses the objectives and overview of the guidelines, as well as the motivation for water reuse and the terminology.

### Chapter 2—Planning and Management Considerations

The steps that should be considered in the planning stage as part of an integrated water resources plan are presented, followed by an overview of key considerations for managing reclaimed water supplies.

### Chapter 3—Types of Reuse Applications

A discussion of reuse for agricultural, industrial, environmental, recreational, and potable supplies is presented, as well as an expanded discussion of indirect and direct potable reuse.

### Chapter 4—State Regulatory Programs for Water Reuse

An overview of legal and institutional considerations for reuse, an updated summary of existing state standards and regulations, as well as suggested minimum guidelines for water reuse.

### Chapter 5—Regional Variations in Water Reuse

Summarizes current water use in the U.S. and discusses expansion of water reuse nationally to meet water needs, and includes variations in regions. Case studies in the U.S. are also introduced.

### Chapter 6—Treatment Technologies for Protecting Public and Environmental Health

Overview of the treatment objectives for reclaimed water and a discussion of the major treatment processes that are fundamental to the production of reclaimed water.

### Chapter 7—Funding Water Reuse Systems

Discussion of how to develop and operate a sustainable water system using sound financial decision-making processes that are tied to the system's strategic planning process.

### Chapter 8—Public Outreach, Participation, and Consultation

Outline of strategies for informing and involving the public in water reuse system planning and reclaimed water use. New social networking tools that can be tapped to aid with this process are also discussed.

### Chapter 9—Global Experiences in Water Reuse

Describes the growth of advanced reuse globally, and provides information on principles for mitigating risks, enabling factors for expanding water reuse, and new case studies that can provide informed approaches.

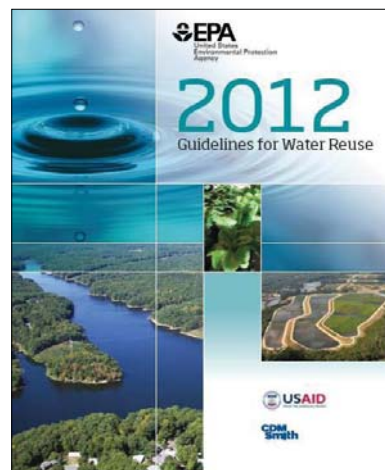


## Background

Recognizing the need to provide national guidance on water reuse regulations and program planning, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed comprehensive, up-to-date water reuse guidelines in support of regulations and guidelines developed by states, tribes, and other authorities. The *Guidelines for Water Reuse* debuted in 1980, and was updated in 1992, 2004, and now 2012. Water reclamation and reuse standards in the U.S. are the responsibility of state and local agencies—there are no federal regulations for reuse.

## Need for Updated Guidance

As of the publication of the updated guidelines in September 2012, 30 states and one U.S. territory have adopted water reuse regulations. In addition, 15 states have guidelines or design standards that govern water reuse. The updated guidelines serve as a national overview of the status of reuse regulations, and clarify some of the variations in the regulatory frameworks that support reuse in different states and regions across the Nation.



EPA/600/R-12/618

## Document Availability

This document is available via the internet:  
<http://www.waterreuseguidelines.org/>