

How to Get Involved?

There are multiple ways to get involved in the Alliance for Water Stewardship's (AWS) efforts to create an international water stewardship program over the next few years. Participation can range from minimal to extensive. We aim to provide as many opportunities as possible, including direct participation and financial support.

Participate in the Water Roundtable or a Regional Initiative

Provide Comments on all Documents and Process Design

Anybody is welcome to provide input on documents produced for the Water Roundtable (WRT) and Regional Initiatives (RI), including the processes designed for the WRT and RIs. Each document will be posted on the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) website:

www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org. All comments and input on the development of international water stewardship standard(s) will be taken into consideration in an open and transparent manner.

Stay Involved in the WRT

Once a stakeholder has gotten involved in the WRT, one of the most important ways they can assist with the development of the standard(s) is to remain involved until the process is completed. This is expected to be a two- to three-year process.

Join the WRT Global Steering Committee

The WRT will create a Global Steering Committee (GSC) made up of stakeholders committed to playing two critical roles in the standard(s) development process: guide the overall activities of the WRT and help consolidate input from various stakeholders, including those involved in the RIs. Once established, the GSC will agree upon and document the decision-making process to be used by the WRT. The GSC will be comprised of representatives from the mix of stakeholder groups involved in the WRT and the RIs. GSC members will be expected to provide funding and time (usually via two in-person multi-day meetings and six phone meetings per year) in order to participate in the GSC.

Participate in a WRT Working Group

The AWS expects several Working Groups (WGs) to be created to provide significant input into the drafting of the standard(s). As the WRT progresses, the number and type of WGs will be determined by the GSC. A WG can be organized around similar stakeholder perspectives (i.e. social and equity groups), or can be a technical group organized to offer a proposed solution to a scientific question that arises during the course of developing the standard(s). WGs will likely be made up of researchers, scientists, and others with expertise in a sector or specific technical area; those who can offer advice on a particular aspect of standard(s) development; or those who can provide collective input on the needs of a stakeholder group (i.e. a retailer advisory WG). Roles of the WGs can include delivering policy-neutral advice on the state of research, identifying significant gaps or areas of disagreement, and developing aspects of the draft standard(s). WGs may also be asked to suggest appropriate indicators and performance levels and to justify such recommendations.

Become a Stakeholder in a Regional Initiative

At the same time the WRT is doing its work the RIs, which will be created at the continent-level, will undertake comparable work. The AWS' goal is to have each RI stakeholder group be as close to the

composition of the WRT as is possible (i.e. a diverse group comprised of representatives of businesses and water service providers, civil society organizations, and public sector agencies). Each new RI will use a process similar to the process used by the WRT (e.g: plenary meetings, an RI Steering Committee, a variety of WGs, and an RI program coordinator). RI stakeholders will engage and interact with the WRT through the RI they participate in, and some RI stakeholders will serve as liaisons between their RI and the WRT. RIs and their stakeholders will review and provide input into the standard(s) developed by the WRT, and will identify and develop regionally specific guidance as needed. RI stakeholders can also participate in pilot projects aimed at developing, testing and improving the draft standard(s) (see *Piloting* below). Input from RI stakeholders to the WRT and AWS will be key to harmonizing global and regional perspectives, and will ensure that regional variation is taken into account when developing standard(s) and building the water stewardship program.

Piloting for Standards Development Purposes and Testing Draft Standards

Some RIs and AWS Board organizations are already conducting educational and knowledge-building water stewardship pilot activities (e.g. WSI's work with cotton growers in Australia, EWP's piloting of indicators with users across Europe and TNC's work with beverage sector members in the United States). As standard(s) and an international water stewardship program are developed, there will be a need for stakeholders at the RI level to conduct pilot projects across a variety of issues, sectors, watersheds, and conditions to help develop, test, and further improve the standard(s).

Fund the Water Roundtable, the Alliance for Water Stewardship or a Regional Initiative

Our collective work on developing the water stewardship program cannot be undertaken without sufficient financial resources. Please help us by funding this absolutely critical work.

Provide Financial Support to the Water Roundtable

The WRT seeks financial support for the costs of the WRT over the next three years. This support will help fund WRT meetings, pilot projects and work undertaken by the WGs. We have sponsors from the private sector, but we still seek several more. Underwriters of the WRT will be eligible to participate in the WRT and will also be considered sponsors of the AWS. For more information, contact Andrew Murphy at andrew.murphy@wwfus.org.

Provide Financial Support to the Alliance for Water Stewardship

The AWS, which organizes and plans the work of the WRT and the RIs, seeks financial support to fulfill its mission of organizing and planning the work entailed in creating the water stewardship program. For more information, contact Matthew Wenban-Smith at mwenbansmith@oneworldstandards.com.

Provide Financial Support to a Regional Initiative

Existing and new RIs have three-year funding needs that are similar to those of the WRT, and that will be underwritten by multiple sources, including companies, foundations, multi and bi-lateral organizations, organizations participating in the work of one or more RI, and other funding sources. For more information contact Jonathan Kaledin at jkaledin@tnc.org.

For more information on the benefits of getting involved, please see the AWS document entitled "What are the Benefits of the Water Stewardship Program and For Whom?"