



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICES FOR YOUR UTILITY

Join us to learn how EPA's water infrastructure planning tool can help your utility engage community & make cost-effective multi-benefit investments

So, you're facing a large capitol investment...

All across America, water utilities act as anchor institutions safeguarding public health, protecting the environment, and sustaining critical water infrastructure investments for their communities. To provide sustainable, cost-effective services, water utilities are regularly faced with the need to make large capital investments to increase levels of treatment, replace aging infrastructure, or build major facility upgrades – all while keeping rates affordable for their customers.

Today's capital project decisions are the foundation for decades of commitment to funding both the operating and capital costs over decades of service. In a rapidly evolving and challenging project decision-making environment, traditional project alternative analysis does not fully encompass the diverse set of challenges facing utilities and may fall short in these areas:

- Proactively engaging the community to understand their priorities and elevate their awareness of utility needs.
- Addressing and quantifying some environmental, economic, and social benefits and costs associated with these long-term infrastructure investments.
- Selecting the most cost-effective project alternative when there are multiple drivers or sources of water pollution, which make project decision-making more complex.

EPA's capital project decision-making process, referred to as Augmented Alternatives Analysis (AAA), was developed to address the opportunities and challenges of modern-day project decision-making.

Join us for a AAA workshop, facilitated by US EPA and hosted by the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District!

This workshop will walk through the ten steps in the AAA process so utilities leave equipped to implement AAA at their own utility. This workshop emphasizes peer to peer discussion and attendees will have ample opportunity to learn from utility peers about their challenges, successes, and plans for implementing AAA when they return home.

Workshop Details

Thursday, April 25, 2024
9:00am-4:00pm

Location: 260 W. Seeboth Street,
Milwaukee, WI 53204

Please reach out to Sarah Shadid at sshadid@rossstrategic.com or register [directly](#).

Pilot Tested Process, Real World Results

As of May 2022, EPA has used the AAA method in four different communities to aid in community engagement and enhance decision-making:

- 1. Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority Combined Sewer Long-Term Control Plan:** Camden used the AAA approach to help identify an optimal and cost-effective mix of green and gray infrastructure to support its long-term control plan. Using AAA's structure, Camden was able to communicate technical modeling and analysis results to build support for a project alternative that, while more cost-intensive, provided the greatest portfolio of benefits for the community, including the ability to meaningfully reduce flooding in environmental justice communities.
- 2. The High Line Canal Conservancy's Stormwater Transformation and Enhancement Program:** EPA's AAA method provided a transparent, collaborative, and systematic method for 11 local jurisdictions to preserve and adapt an existing 71-mile-long canal for enhanced stormwater management in the Denver metropolitan area. The process encouraged communities to have in-depth conversations about shared goals and the steps to achieve those goals, and the conversations allowed for an increase in public understanding and support for green infrastructure.
- 3. The City of Saco Water Resource Recovery Department (WRRD) Long Term Resiliency Plan:** As part of the AAA method, WRRD developed a diverse steering committee that provided a wide range of perspectives and needs within the community. Though the large capital investments represent a substantial financial commitment for this small community, the utility-community collaboration provided WRRD a strong basis to communicate with elected officials on the needs and benefits of the investment. In Spring 2022, WRRD received approval from the City of Saco for financing appropriation to fund the alternative identified using the AAA method.

Resources

The AAA process is detailed in the [Making the Right Choices for your Utility: Integrating Community Priorities and Triple Bottom Line Criteria into the Decision-Making Process](#) guide, which was revised in 2022 to incorporate experiences and lessons learned during the pilot projects. The guide has a companion set of worksheets, which will help you complete each step in the AAA process. These worksheets are available in both [fillable PDF](#) and [excel](#) formats. To read about the pilots in detail, visit our case study documents on the [Camden pilot](#) and the [Saco + HLCC](#) pilots. All resources can be accessed via the QR Code.

