

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a long history of contributing to the economic strength of our nation through water resources development. Today, water is critical not only to our economic viability but also to the health of our environment. Working as part of the Executive Branch and with the Congress, the Corps plays a critical role in our nation's continued efforts to address competing demands on scarce water resources.

Our strategic plan for the Civil Works mission emphasizes balanced, collaborative solutions. The plan focuses on a watershed approach as the guidepost for directing this effort.



The Civil Works Strategic Plan, which covers the years 2004 through 2009, establishes five goals.

Goal 1

Provide sustainable development and integrated management of the nation's water resources.

The Corps will continue its commitment to the nation's priority Civil Works missions of navigation, flood damage reduction and ecosystem restoration. In carrying out these missions, we, along with our partners and stakeholders, will concentrate on creating sustainable and integrated management solutions that emphasize larger regional needs and opportunities and cost-effective, win-win solutions. We will work to have a greater role as a facilitator and collaborator—working with federal, state and local entities; Native American tribes; non-governmental organizations; and the private sector—to craft water resources solutions that better balance economic, environmental and social objectives.

Goal 2

Repair past environmental degradation and prevent future environmental losses.

We will be a proponent for the protection and restoration of aquatic and related land resources. Where Corps projects have degraded ecosystem functions, we will seek to restore them to more natural conditions. We are committed to supporting the nation's goal of no overall net loss of wetlands. The Corps also will continue to assist in the clean-up of contaminated sites as authorized.

Goal 3

Ensure that projects perform to meet authorized purposes and evolving conditions.

We will modernize aging infrastructure as economically justified and take other steps to update projects in light of current conditions and changing needs. We will concentrate on high-priority maintenance projects and on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of project operations.

Goal 4

Reduce vulnerabilities and losses to the nation and the Army from natural and man-made disasters, including terrorism.

The Corps will provide timely, effective and efficient disaster preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation services through flood fighting and other support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the broader mission of the Department of Homeland Security.

Goal 5

Be a world-class public engineering organization.

We are committed to ensuring our ability to accomplish our Civil Works mission and provide expert scientific and engineering technical assistance to the U.S. Army, the Department of Defense, and other federal and international agencies. Achievement of this goal is essential to implementing the other four goals. The Corps will:

- maintain a solid technical foundation in our core competency areas, including engineering and related sciences;
- make Corps-provided services easier for the public to access; and
- promote organizational effectiveness and financial integrity.

PROMOTING PARTNERSHIP

The watershed approach, which is the foundation of the strategic plan, recognizes that complex water resources challenges can best be met in partnership with stakeholders. The Civil Works strategic plan envisions collaborations that will bring a variety of resources, authorities, and perspectives to the table.



The Corps will strengthen existing partnerships and develop new partnerships with federal, state and local entities; Native American tribes; non-governmental organizations; and the private sector to solve our nation's complex water resources problems.

We will:

- work with local or regional watershed councils to develop watershed management plans;
- facilitate discussions among stakeholders with competing or complementary water resources needs;
- partner with other federal agencies to address regional water resources issues;
- develop, operate and maintain traditional Corps projects in a more integrated, environmentally sustainable manner;
- provide technical assistance to states and local communities;
- share data and information; and
- improve watershed models in cooperation with others.



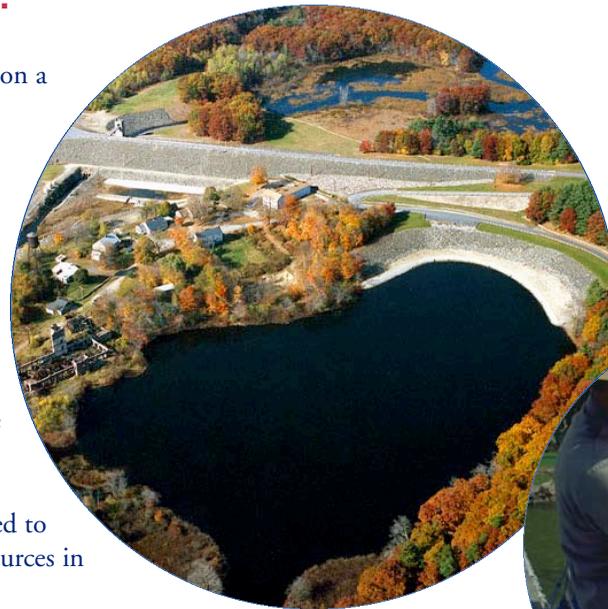
WATERSHED APPROACH

The unifying theme that ties the Corps Civil Works goals together is the increased application of watershed principles. Under these principles, we will:

- work collaboratively with a broad range of stakeholders to help solve water resources problems in a sustainable manner;
- use systems approaches to understand the connections between natural and man-made systems;
- analyze water resources problems on larger geographic scales; and
- strive to achieve multiple goals and functions using water and related resources in a balanced manner.

MEETING WATER RESOURCES CHALLENGES:

The plan draws on a series of “listening sessions” held around the nation in which key stakeholders discussed the central water resources challenges facing our nation over the next several years. Participants emphasized the need to invest in water resources in ways that:



balance economic and environmental objectives, both of which are important to Americans’ quality of life;

restore environmental degradation from past development and ensure sustainability in the future;

modernize aging water resources infrastructure to improve performance and safety, and to meet changing needs;

enhance our capability to respond to disasters, terrorism and other threats to our water resources infrastructure; and

implement efficient and effective water resources planning, decision-making and management by minimizing institutional barriers.



The complete strategic plan is available at http://www.usace.army.mil/civilworks/cw_strat.pdf or at <http://www.corpsresults.us>.

For detailed information on ongoing Corps programs and activities visit the Value to the Nation web site at <http://www.corpsresults.us>.



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works Strategic Plan

Fiscal Years 2004-2009



Committed to:

- sustainable** development
- environmental** restoration
- modernizing** infrastructure
- effective** disaster response capabilities
- world class** public engineering