



Transforming the USACE Civil Works Budget to Better Address America's Water Resources Needs

"The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers must focus on starting fewer Civil Works projects, doing them well and completing them properly. Project benefits will be delivered sooner and more efficiently, proving our value to the Nation. We also must shift to a watershed, systems-based decision-making approach, working closely with our customers, partners and stakeholders, in order to leverage each other's knowledge, capabilities and resources."

—MG Meredith W.B. 'Bo' Temple, Acting USACE Commander

Since the early 1800s, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has been a leader in developing and managing water resources in the United States under its Civil Works program. USACE is now involved in a major effort to transform the Civil Works program in order to deliver the water resources Americans need today and in the future. A key element in this process is the transformation of Civil Works budget development by focusing on national goals and objectives, and developing a comprehensive infrastructure strategy that prioritizes investments based on an evaluation of project value and level of service provided.

The Civil Works budget focuses on the construction, operation, maintenance, repair and replacement of major navigation, flood risk management and hydropower infrastructure, as well as on environmental mitigation and restoration of natural resources. As the infrastructure has aged and deteriorated, the funding to address these issues has decreased. These factors place a severe strain on USACE's ability to fully ensure the safety of the infrastructure, maintain the infrastructure to meet performance goals, and efficiently provide the economic and environmental benefits for which projects were designed and constructed. As a result, a new approach to budgeting for the Civil Works program is essential to address 21st century needs.

The new budgeting approach will:

- Establish a program-based, goal-focused method to budgeting.
- Establish a vertical mapping/alignment of programs/business lines to national goals and objectives.
- Improve the justification and defense of budget allocations.
- Incorporate integrated water resource management concepts into systems thinking and investments.

This new budget approach establishes a systems-based, watershed approach to decision making, as well as consideration of alternative financing vehicles. Effective use of funding is not up to USACE alone; it will require input from and collaboration with stakeholders and other interested parties.

Key Messages

- Transforming the Civil Works budget development process will further align the program with national goals and objectives.
- Civil Works budget transformation will require a comprehensive infrastructure strategy that prioritizes investments based on project values and levels of service.
- In an era of constrained financial resources, transforming the Civil Works budget development process will help ensure the Nation's most critical current and future needs are met and it gets the maximum return on investment in the program.
- Budget transformation seeks to change the budget development process from a project-centric basis to one that involves a systems-based, watershed approach to decision making.

Facts & Figures

- USACE manages a portfolio of federal water resources assets in all 50 states valued at \$165 billion.
- USACE operates and maintains 12,000 miles of inland channels and 238 navigation lock chambers at 192 sites.
- USACE maintains 926 coastal, Great Lakes and inland harbors.
- USACE operates 75 hydropower projects with 350 generating units that annually produce nearly 70 billion kilowatt-hours.
- USACE flood risk management projects reduce risk to people, homes, and communities from flooding and coastal storms.
- USACE restores and protects aquatic ecosystems.
- USACE is the #1 federal provider of outdoor recreation.
- For more information visit <http://www.usace.army.mil>