



**TETRA TECH**



# **“One Water” in North Carolina: Reconnecting Water to Build Better Communities**

***Trevor Clements, President  
Tetra Tech Engineering, P.C.  
RTP, NC***

# Talk Objectives



- Explore how One Water approach is integral to building a more resilient North Carolina
- Highlight Stormwater Component



# Emerging Focus for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Communities



## Balanced Triple Bottom Line:

- Strong and Prosperous Economy
- High Quality of Life
- Healthy Environment

# NC ARCOG Economic Development Goals



- Build on the Region's Competitive Advantages and Leverage the Marketplace
- Establish and Maintain a Robust Regional Infrastructure
- Create Revitalized, Healthy and Vibrant Communities
- Develop Talented and Innovative People



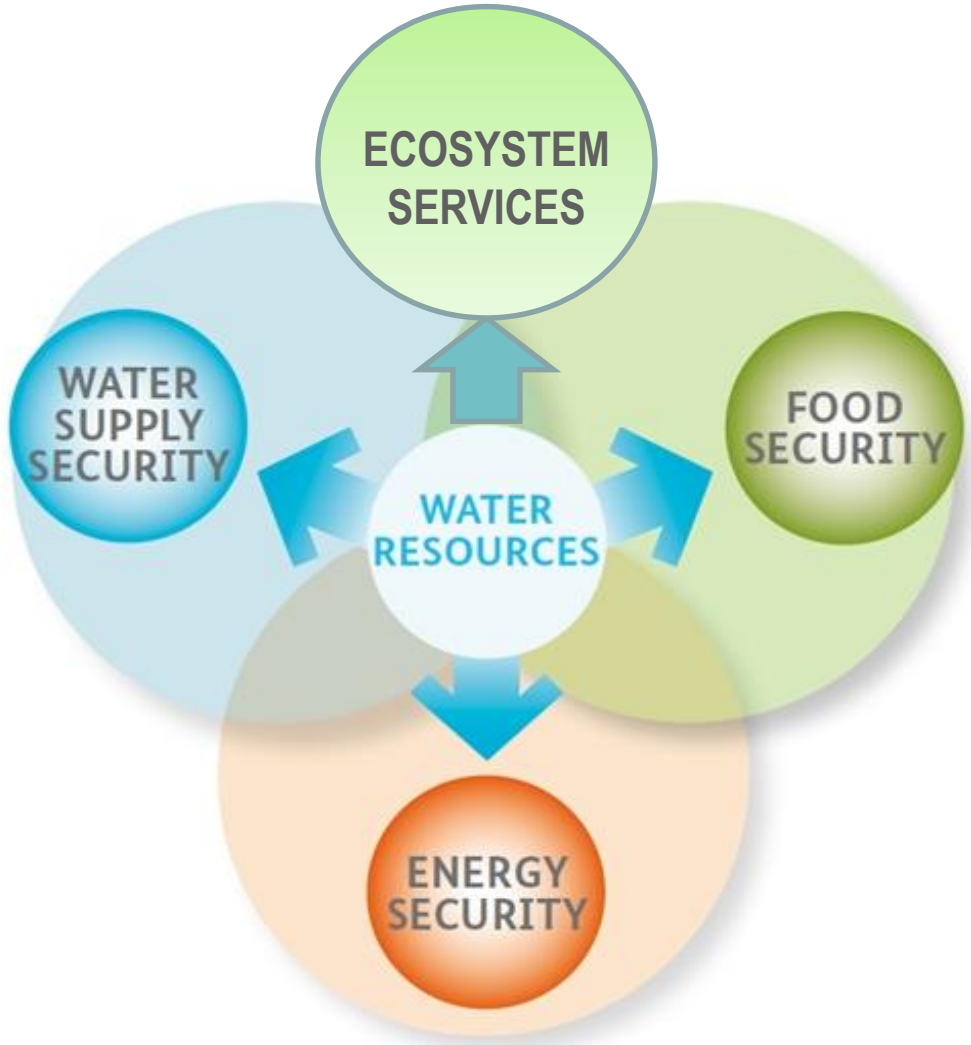
**NCTOMORROW**

Building Communities for Tomorrow's Jobs

# Water is the Key: Connects to every aspect of our communities' well-being



- Water & sanitation for PEOPLE
- Rainfall & irrigation for FOOD
- Water for INDUSTRY, ENERGY, TRANSPORT....
- Water supporting ECOSYSTEM SERVICES



# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Challenges for Water



- Asset Management
  - Aging Infrastructure
- Water Quality Impairment
- Climate Vulnerability
- Polarized Public



# Barrier to Resilience = The Way We Work in Silos



Wastewater

Drinking Water

Stormwater

Others

# Overcoming the Barrier: One Water Concept



- Definition of One Water (WERF/WRF, 2015)

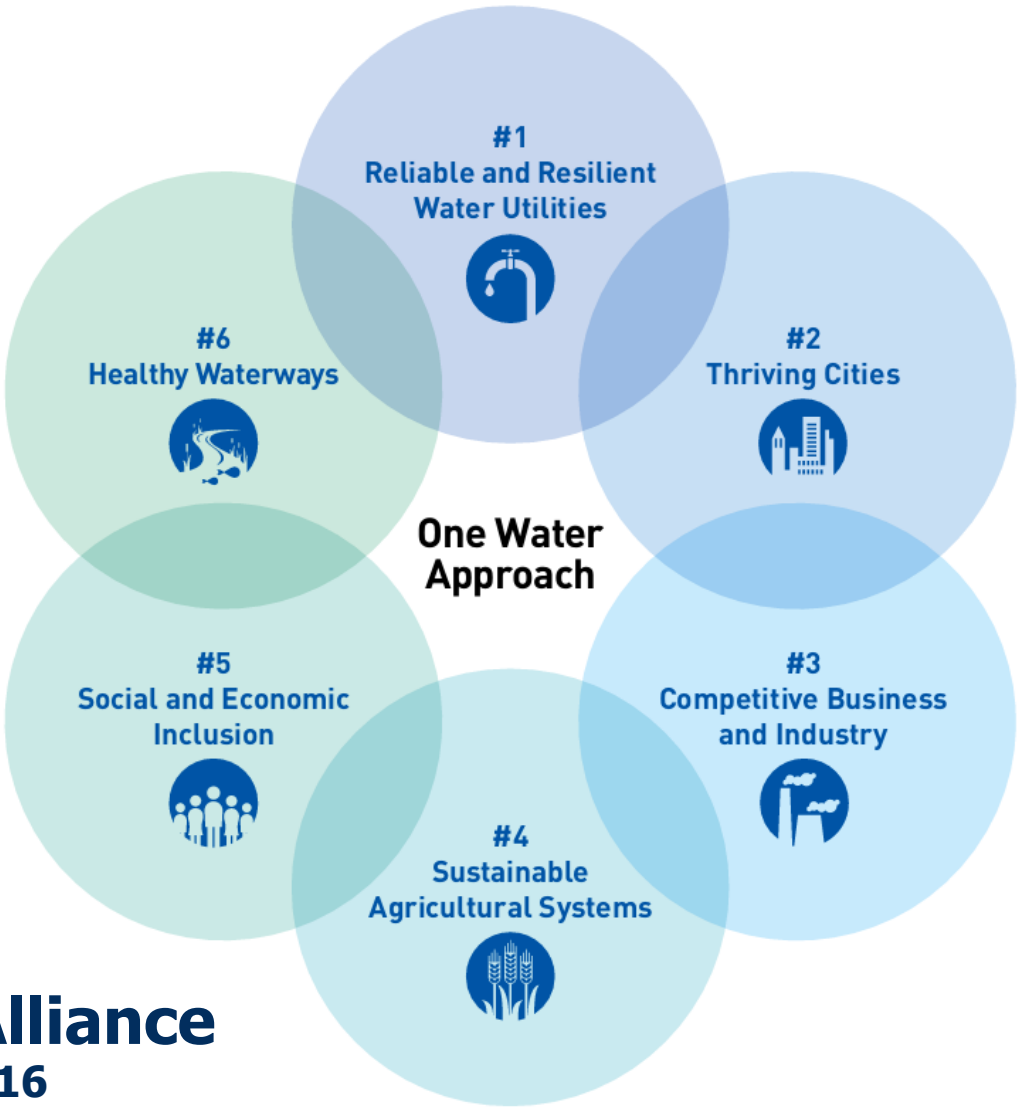
- All urban water flows are recognized as potential **resources...**

AND

- the **interconnectedness of water supply, groundwater, stormwater and wastewater is optimized**, and their **combined impact** on flooding, water quality, wetlands, watercourses, estuaries and coastal waters **is recognized**



# Connecting water to desired community traits



**From: U.S. Water Alliance**  
**Roadmap for One Water, 2016**

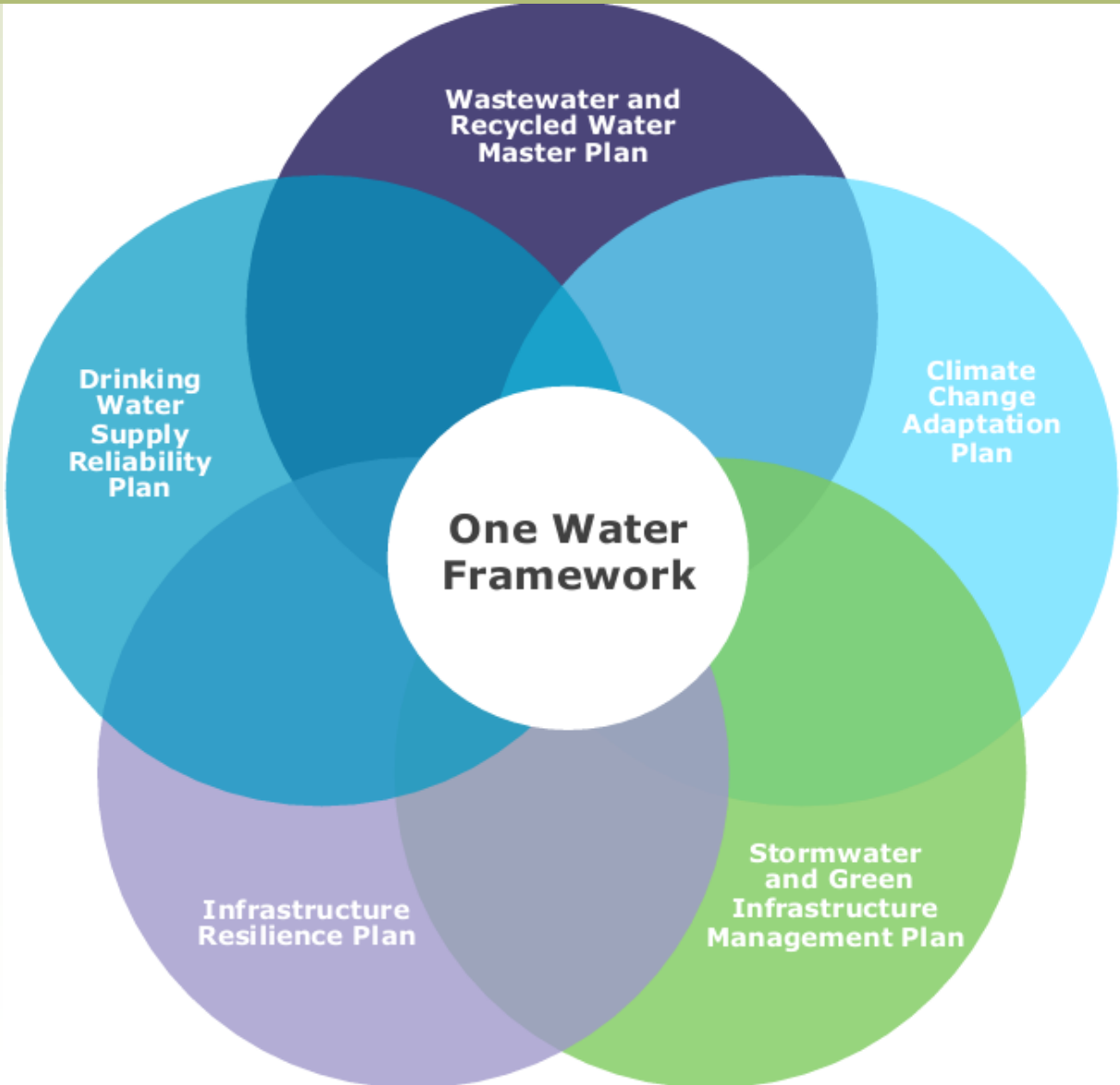
# Summary of Transformational Principles



- Value all water
- Aspire to higher community objectives
- Consider all aspects of community development
- Integrate scales and multiple functions
- Recognize life-cycle costs/maximize TBL benefits
- Choose smart, clean and green approaches
- Foster innovation
- Adapt and evolve (better, stronger)

# WRF diagram

## *Blue Print for One Water, 2016*



# "One Water" Management Model

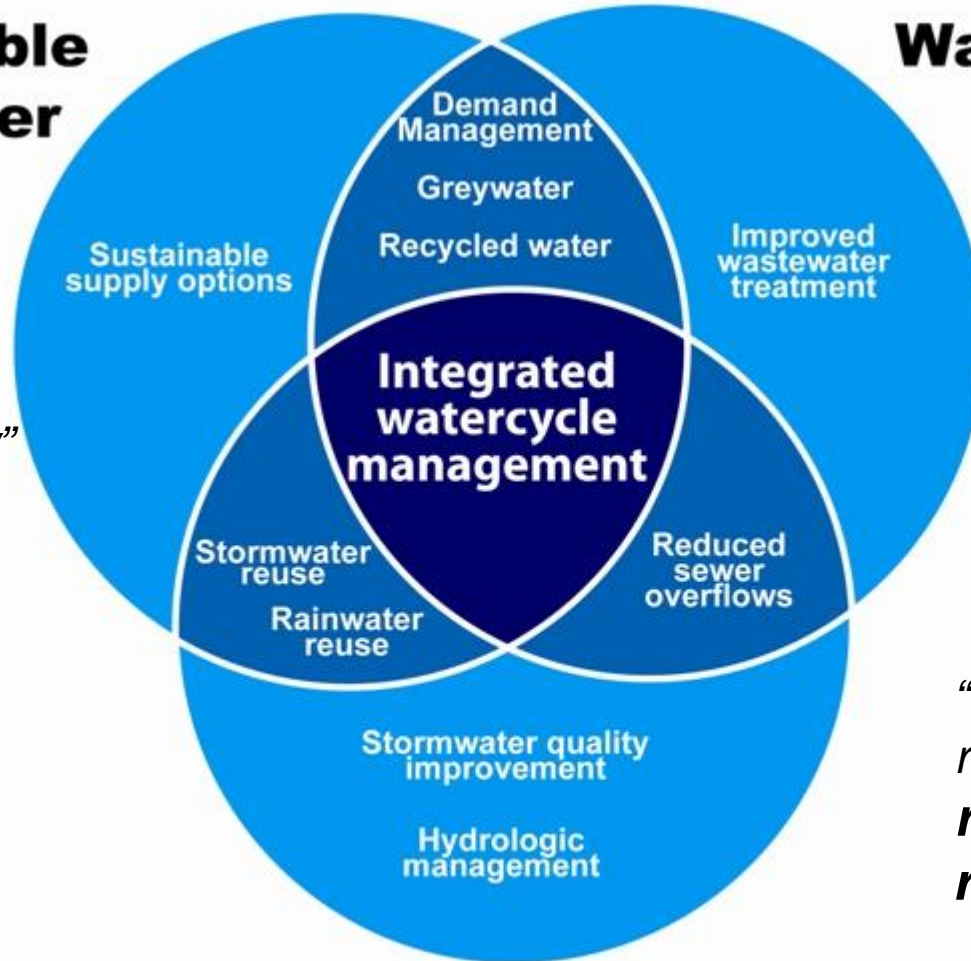


**Potable  
Water**

**Wastewater**

*"Address scarcity or supply expansion through **alternative sources of supply**"*

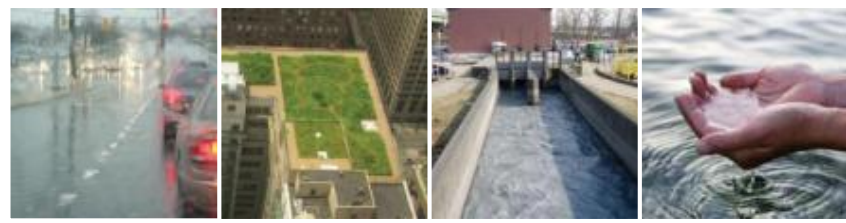
*Broader Spectrum of **Technologies: mimic nature, emerging, distributed***



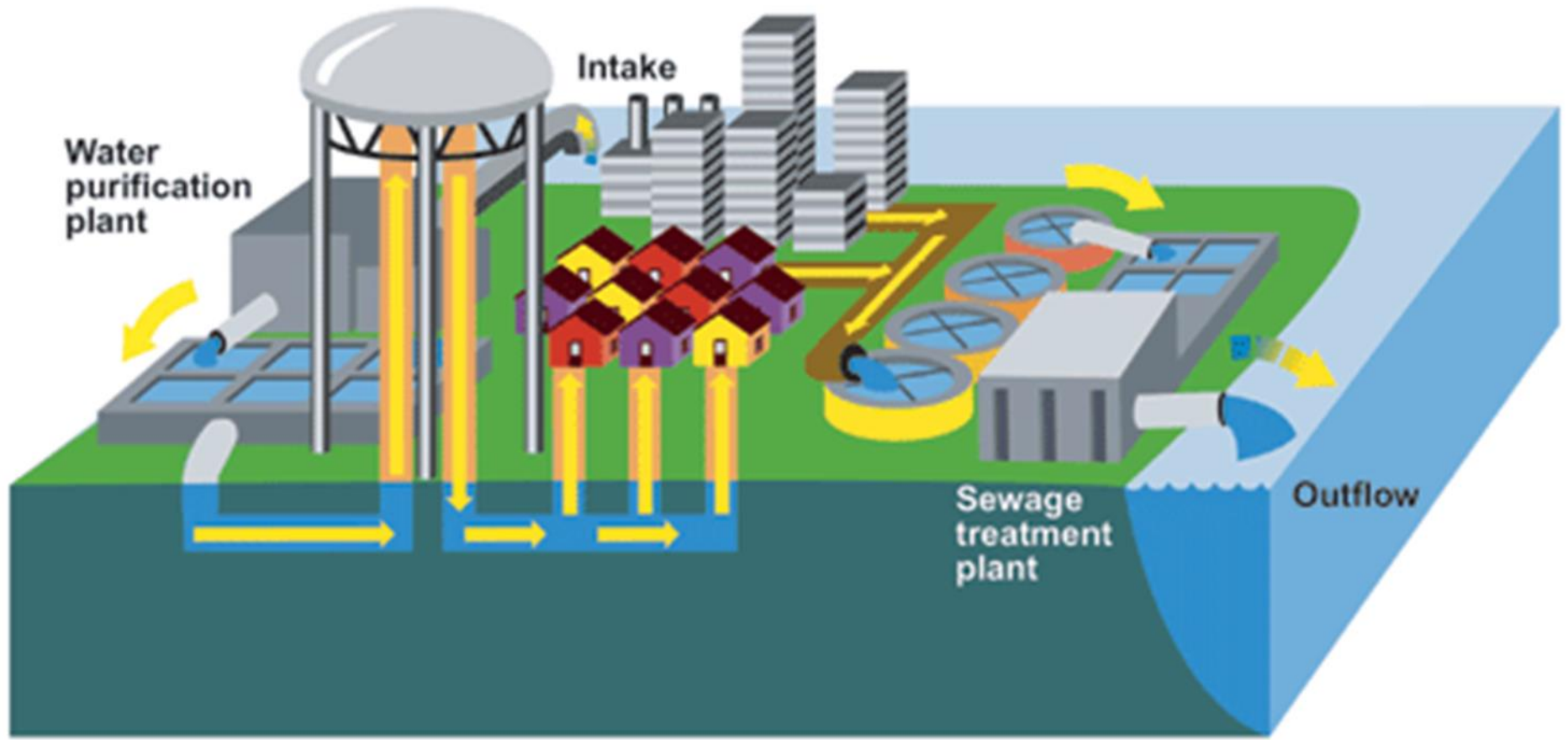
*"Close the loop on resource cycles; **recovery and reuse**"*

**Stormwater**

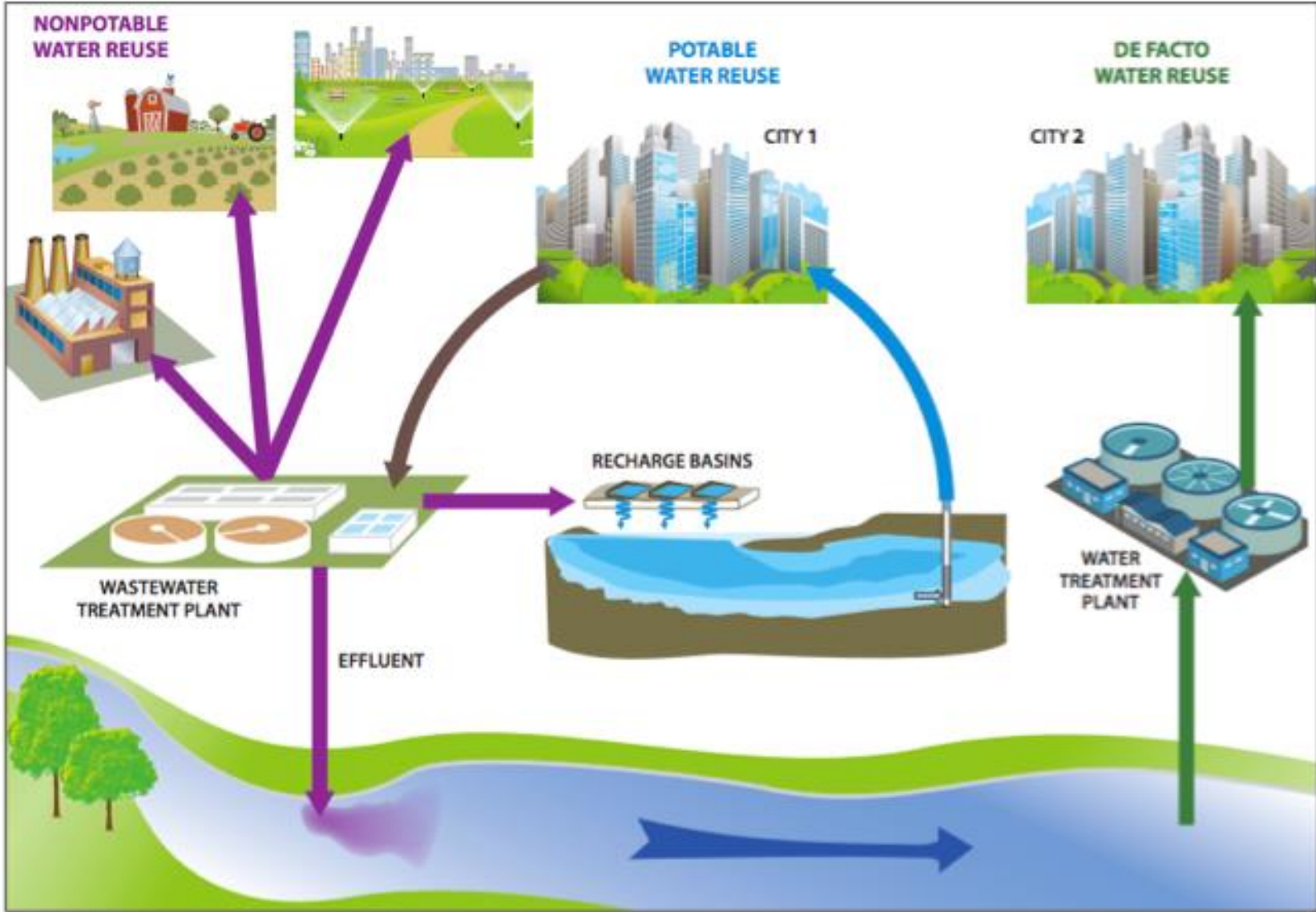
# Current Paradigm: large centralized, single-use systems



## Municipal water supply and sewage treatment

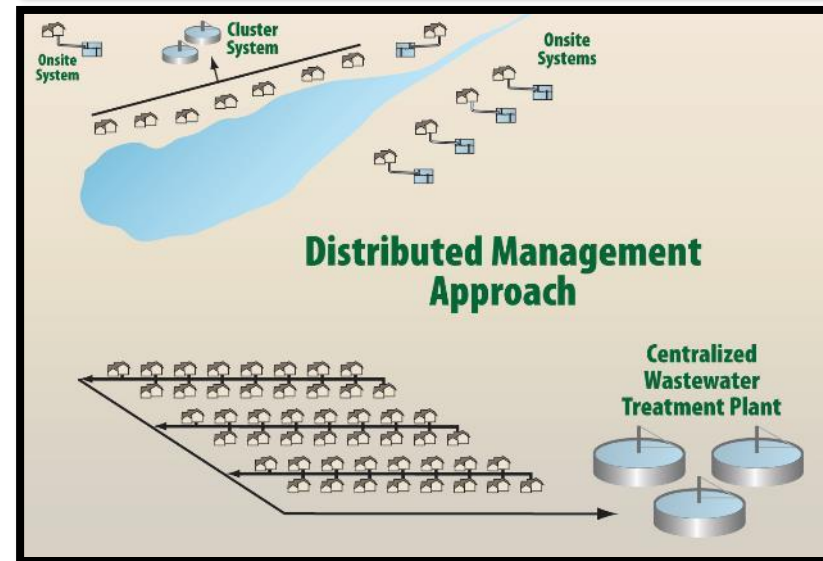
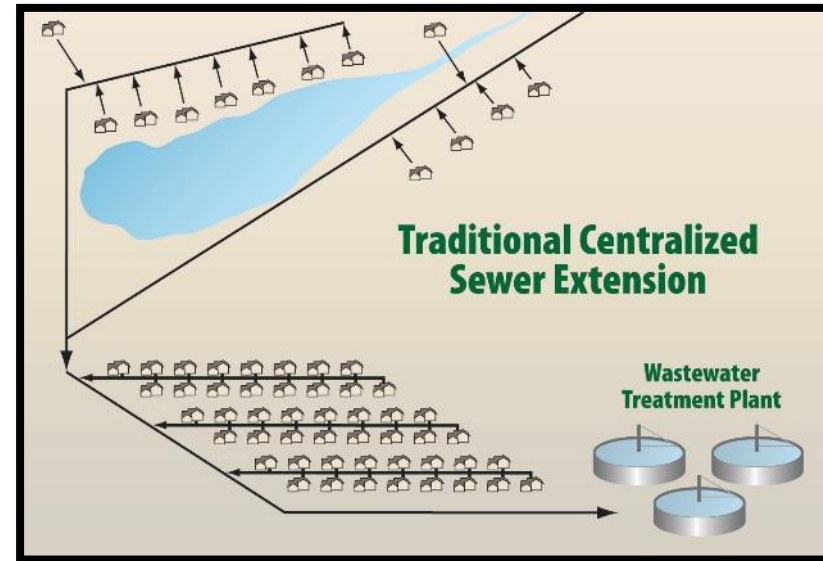


# Some Reuse Now Occurring

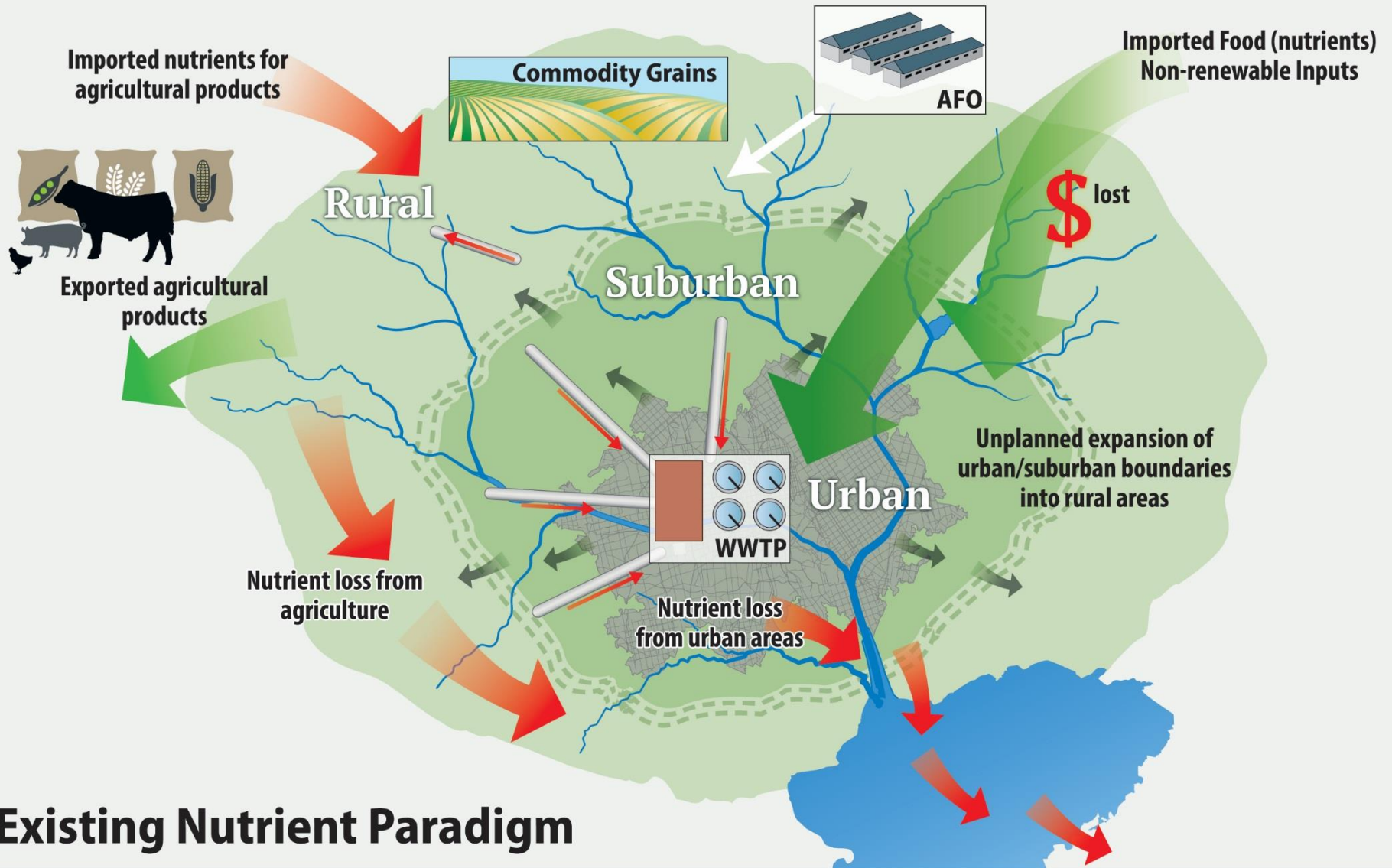


# Integrating “Distributed” and “Go as you Grow” Approaches

- Treatment close to the source and/or reuse requires less energy
- Urban reuse retrofits are more feasible
- *Smart, clean and green* technology
  - Smart
    - Remote monitoring of multiple systems
    - Responsive to user feedback
  - Clean
    - **Resource recovery** within facilities
    - Match water quality to intended reuse (Fit-for-Purpose)
  - Green
    - Efficient/passive ecological treatment
    - **Multifunctional:** Landscape/facility integration
    - Relatively infiltration-resistant



# Current Unsustainable Approach to Nutrient Management





# Top Down Prescriptive Approach Not Working (e.g., Falls/Jordan)



Determination of Water Quality Use Impairment



Prescriptive Policies & Regulations



Control Based Implementation



## Outcomes:

- Economic Opposition
- Social Opposition
- Remand of Environmental Rules

## Root cause not addressed

- Open loop nutrient flows
- Poor land management

## Weak links

### *Social:*

- “Problem”- vs “Vision”-based

### *Economic:*

- Large cost of required controls
- Public question of benefits

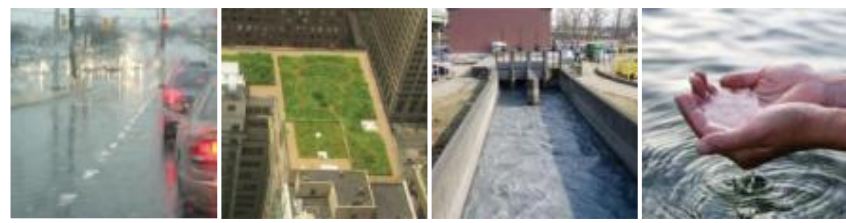
### *Environmental:*

- Single parameter focus

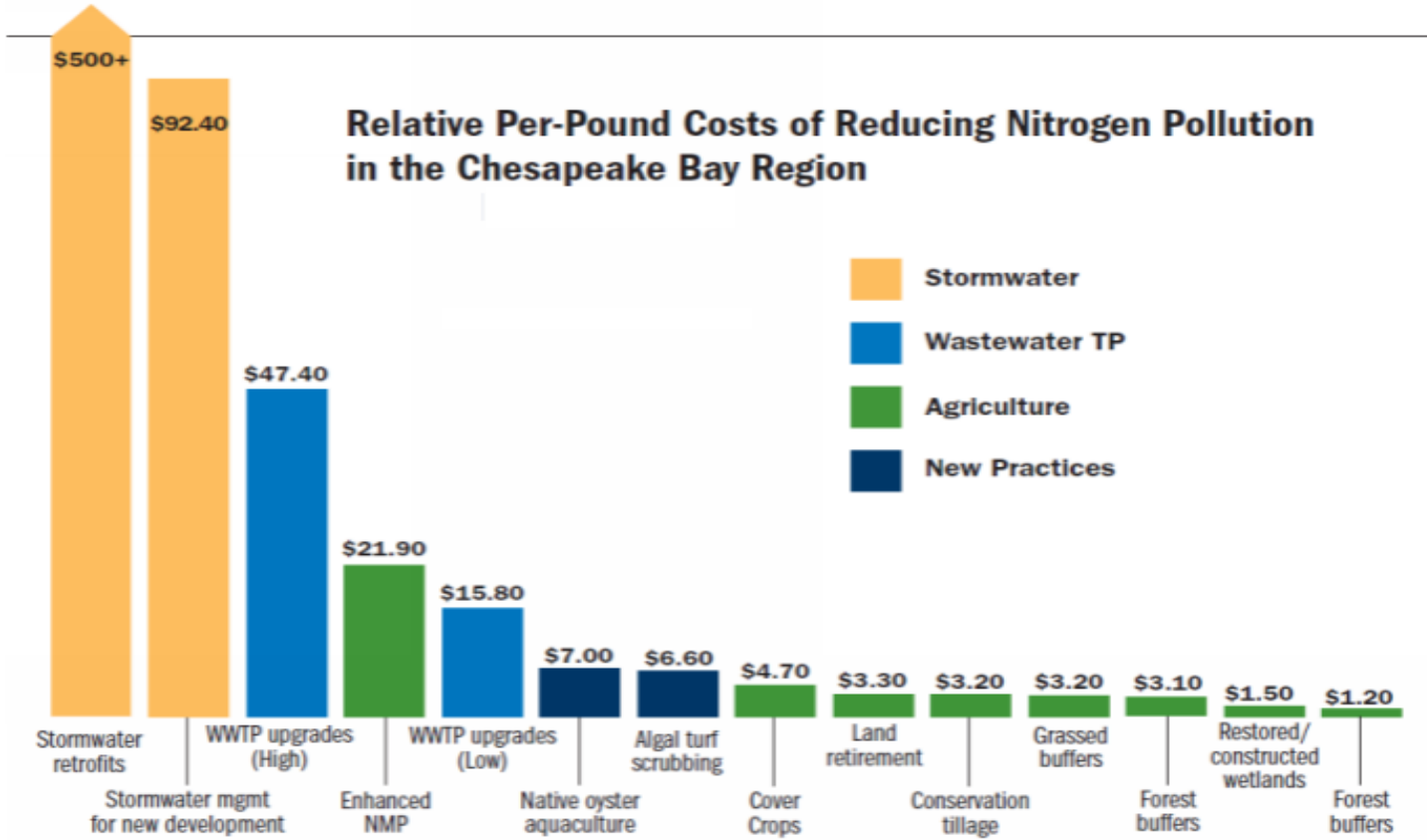
## Missing alternatives to “treat and discharge” options

- Community-based decisions promote local innovation

# Insight from Chesapeake Bay Program



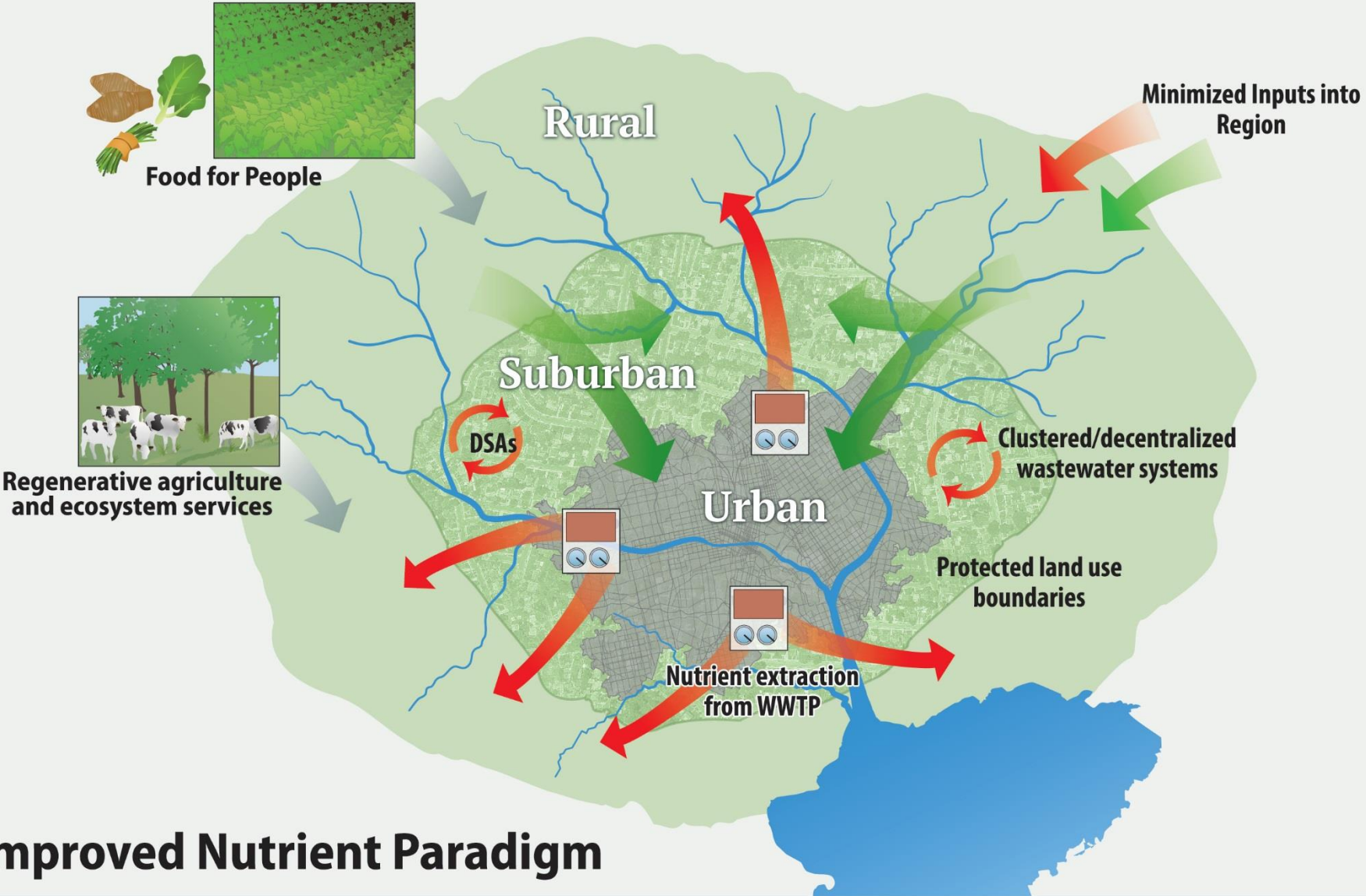
## Costs per pound vary over 4 orders of magnitude



Source: World Resources Institute

January 2010

# More Resilient Approach



## Improved Nutrient Paradigm

# The Urban-Rural Continuum



## Interdependent concept that consists of:

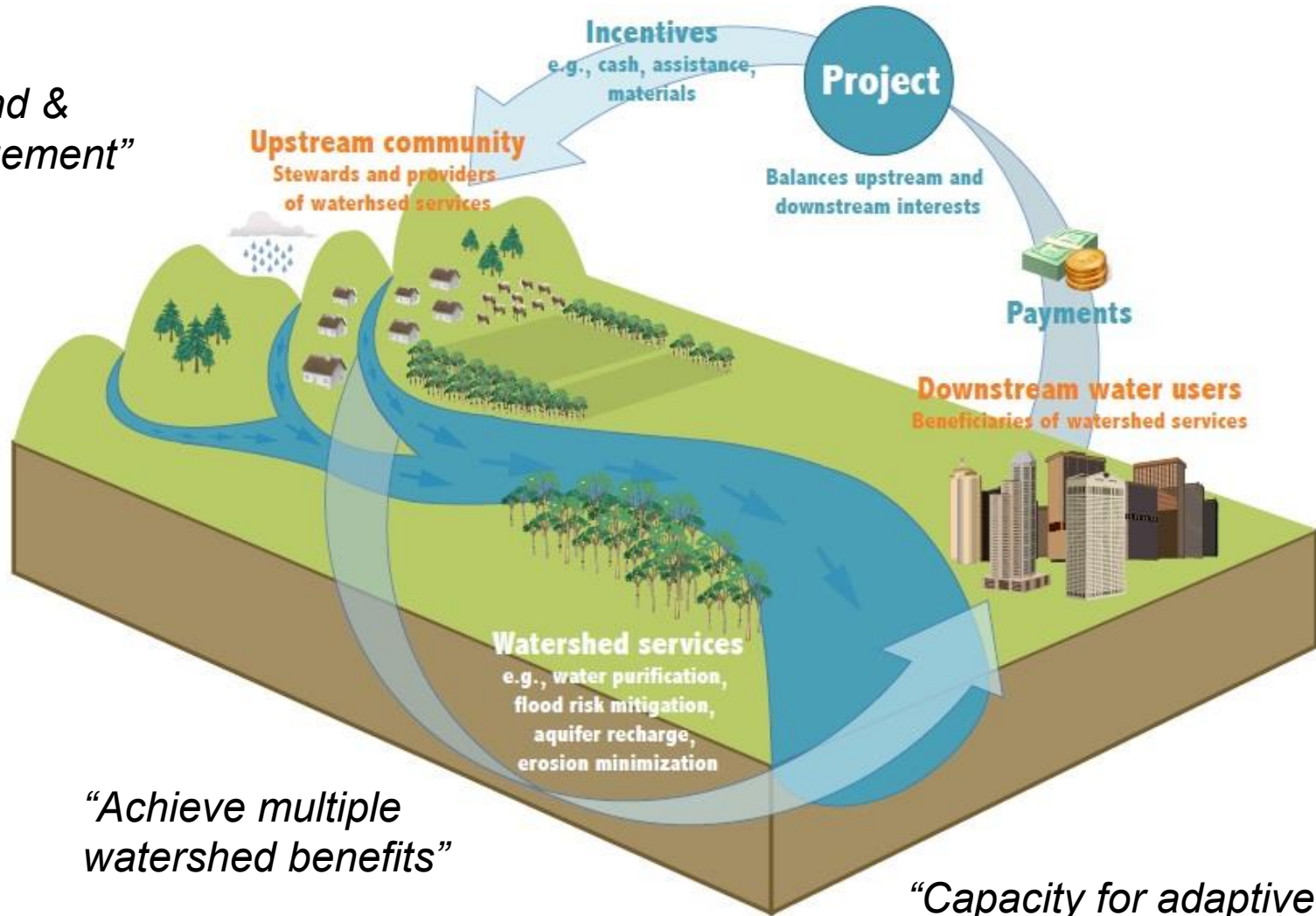
- Strategic planning
  - Matching ag enterprise w/ land use, infrastructure, and market
- Socio-economics
  - Regional value-chains
  - Processing/storage/distribution hubs
  - Agri/eco-tourism
  - Jobs/education
- Agriculture-Supported Development
- Waste-to-resource markets
  - Minerals (struvite, biosolids, compost, feedstock organics, etc.)
  - Bio-energy
  - Irrigation supply
- “Working-lands” Mitigation
  - Performance-based, carbon-focused



# Water connects upstream and downstream communities: manage as a system



*“Integrate land & water management”*



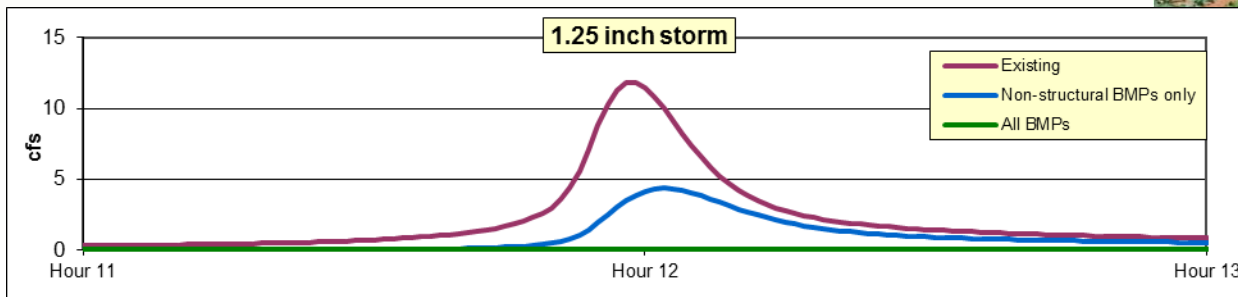
*“Achieve multiple watershed benefits”*

*“Capacity for adaptive management”*

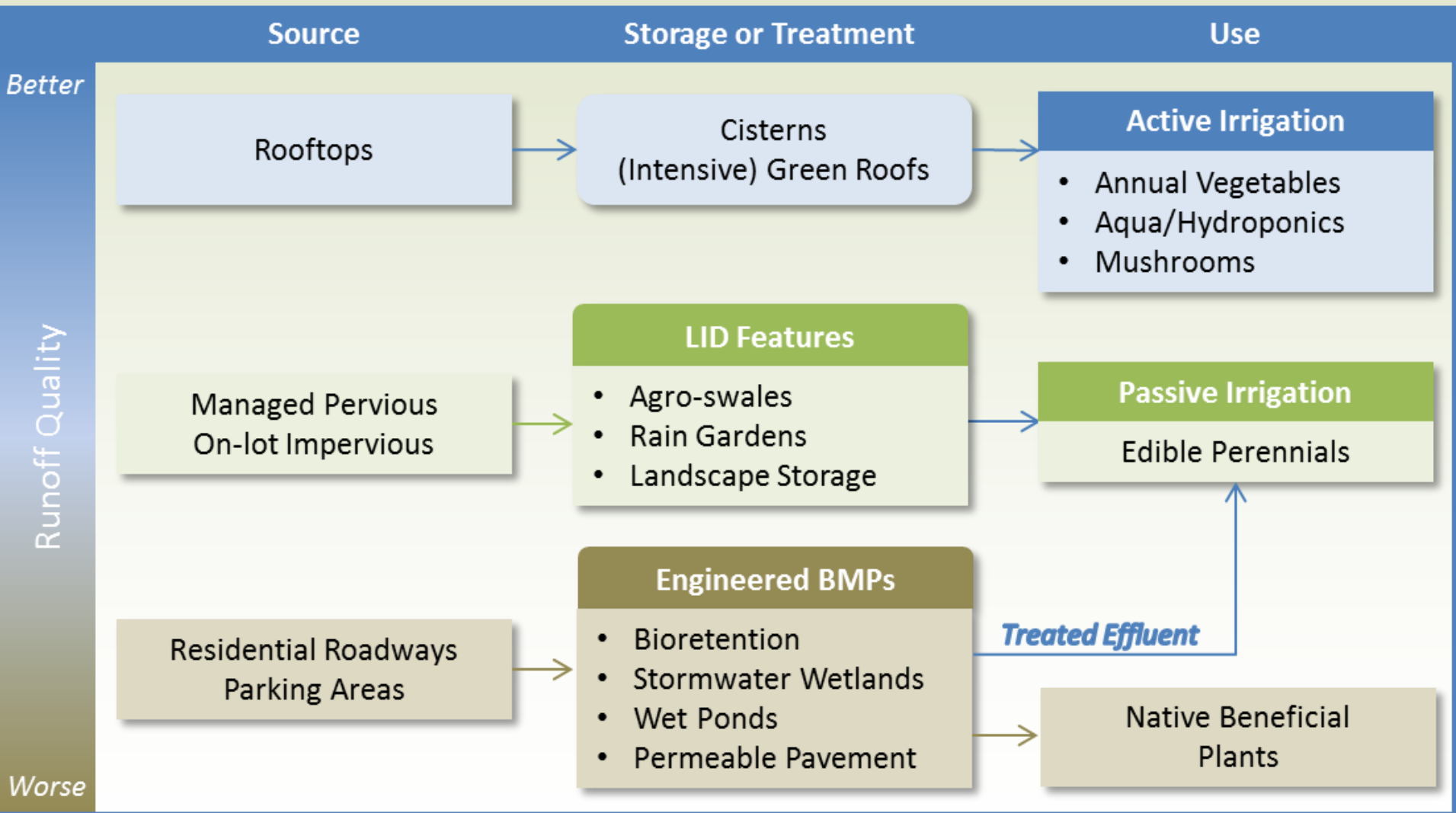
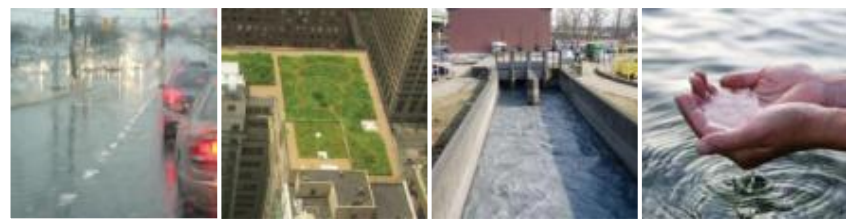
# Urban Pervious – The Next Frontier



- Socio-economic driver for stormwater solutions
- “Problem to solution”
- Productive landscapes
  - Food, fuel, medicine, habitat, etc.
- Working with nature
- A new stormwater “business model”



# Linking Stormwater Management and Urban Agriculture: Site-scale



# Urban Ag Collaboration TBL Community Benefits



## ■ Economic

- Local \$
- Micro-enterprises
- Food affordability
- Energy savings

## ■ Social

- Food-Energy-Water security
- Health
- Empowerment
- Youth development
- Safe spaces

## ■ Environmental

- Soil improvement
- Stormwater mgmt.
- Biodiversity
- GHG reduction



# Matching Source to Sink to Scale

**Existing Urban/  
Brownfield Redevelopment**

**Suburban/Greenfield  
Development**

**Rural**

*Centralized/Satellite Systems*

*Decentralized/Cluster Systems  
(large scale)*

*Decentralized/Cluster Systems  
(small scale)*

Wastewater  
(Source)

- Nutrient Extraction Processes
  - Struvite, biosolids
- Treatment Wetlands
  - Ecosystem Services

Subsurface/surface disposal

Subsurface disposal

Water Supply

- Potable (centralized)
  - Microgrids/integrated pipelines
- Non-Potable (decentralized)
  - Cisterns (large scale)

- Potable
  - Community wells
- Non-Potable
  - Cisterns
  - Wet ponds

- Potable
  - Private wells
- Non-Potable
  - Farm ponds
  - Streams (ram, nose pumps)

Organic Waste

**Urban Agriculture**

**Ag-Support Developments**

**Production Agriculture**

Agriculture  
(Sink)

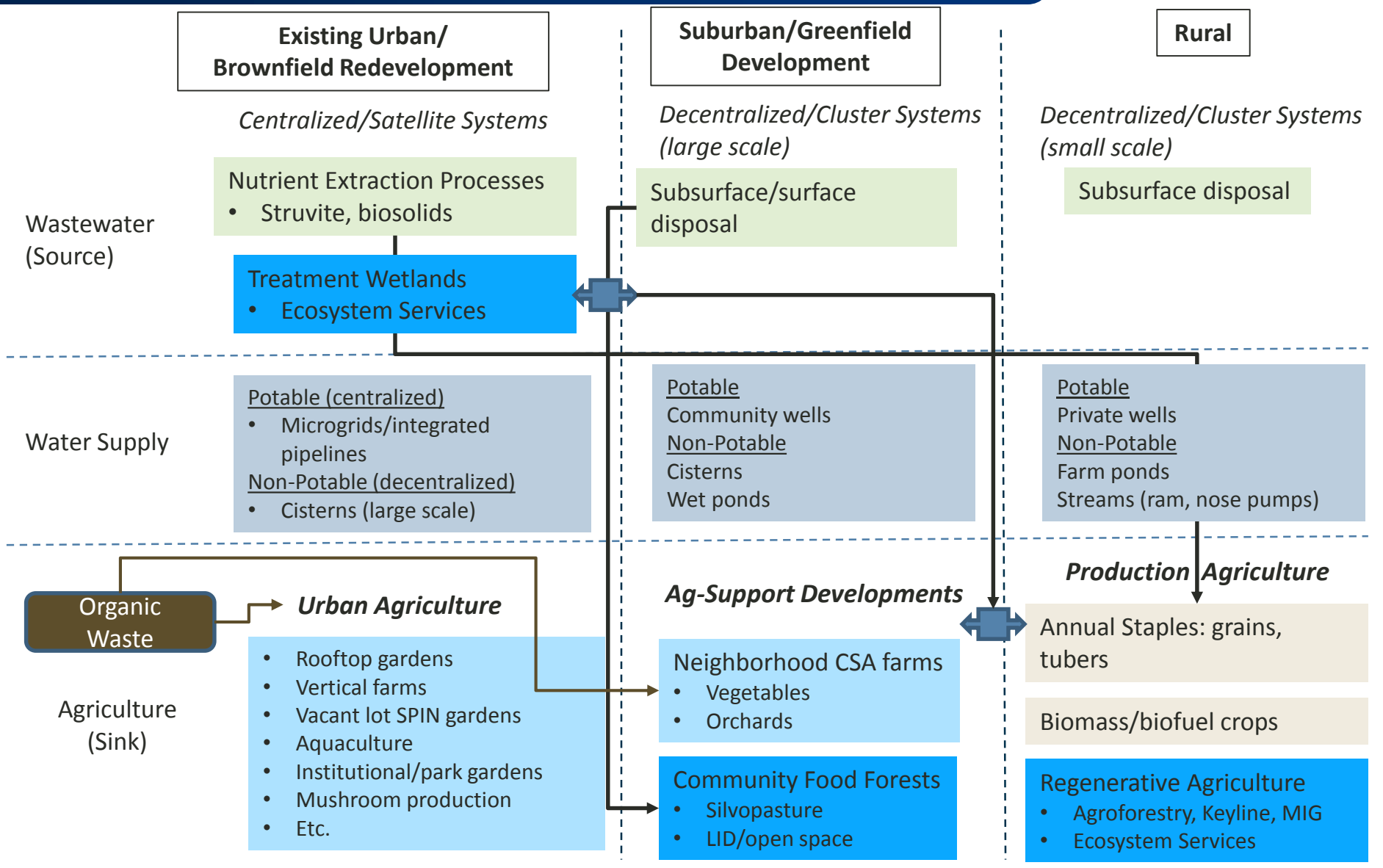
- Rooftop gardens
- Vertical farms
- Vacant lot SPIN gardens
- Aquaculture
- Institutional/park gardens
- Mushroom production
- Etc.

- Neighborhood CSA farms
  - Vegetables
  - Orchards
- Community Food Forests
  - Silvopasture
  - LID/open space

Annual Staples: grains, tubers

Biomass/biofuel crops

- Regenerative Agriculture
  - Agroforestry, Keyline, MIG
  - Ecosystem Services



# Green Infrastructure (GI) for Climate Resiliency



## Resilient Outcomes

- Manage flooding
- Prepare for drought
- Reduce urban heat islands
- Lower building energy demands
- Spend less energy managing water
- Protect the coast

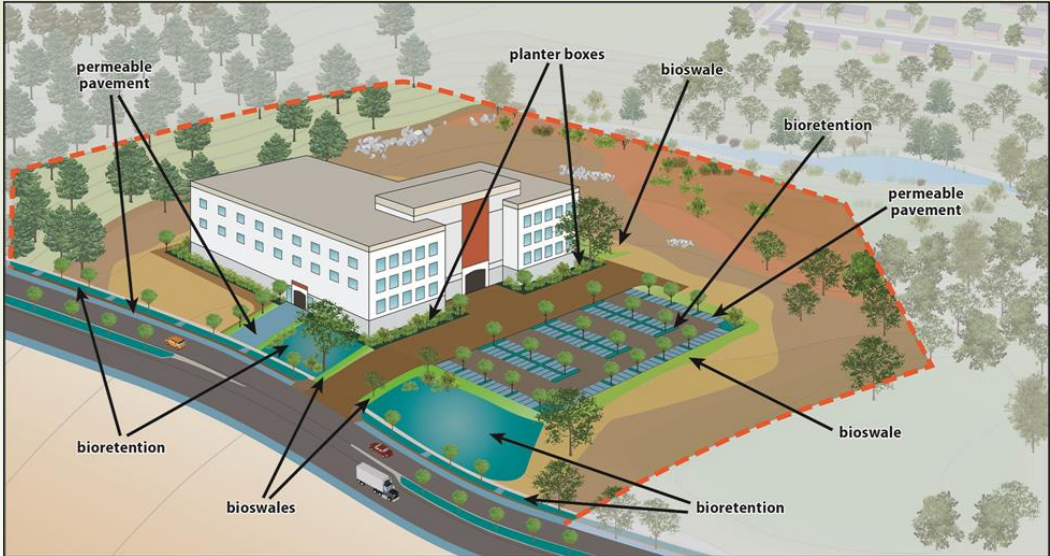
## GI Practices

- Infiltrate water (bioretention, raingardens, swales, permeable pavement)
- Harvest rainwater (cisterns, rain barrels, vaults)
- Plant trees
- Build greenroofs
- Conserve natural areas: riparian buffers, wetlands, dunes, living shorelines

# Enhancing Built Environment: LID & Green Infrastructure



- Values hydrologic cycle
- Reflects multiple objectives & benefits
- Part of asset management solution
- Smart, clean and green
- Integrated water approach
- Effective at multiple scales
- Adaptable



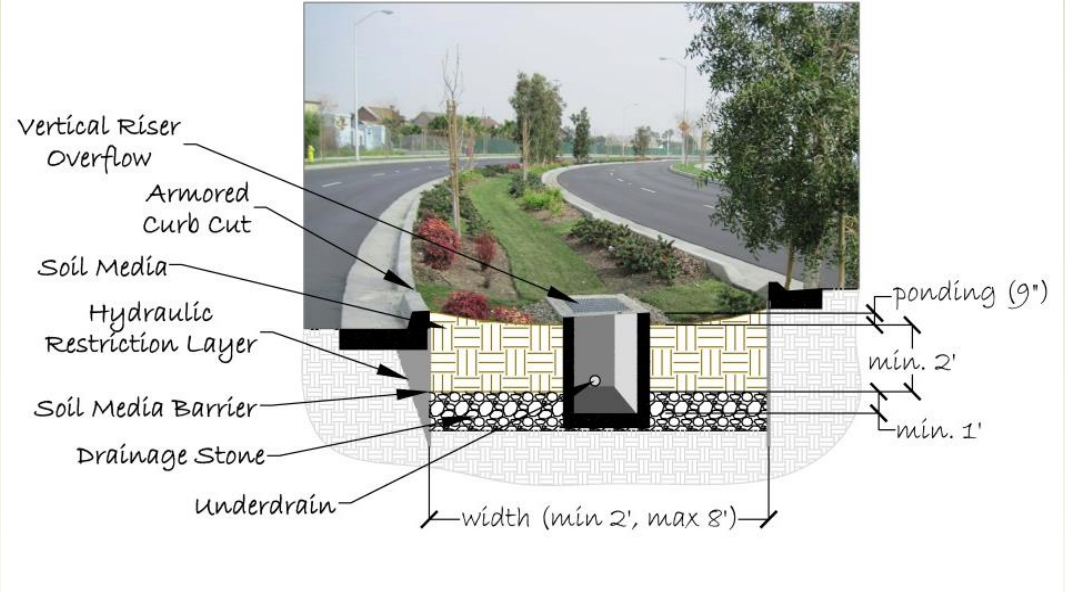
# U.S. Examples – Urban: Battery Park NYC (Site Scale)



- Decentralized reuse in highly urbanized area
- LEED Platinum
- Green roof filters and captures stormwater
- Wastewater and stormwater treated for reuse
  - Toilet flushing
  - Cooling tower supply
  - Irrigation of park
- 48% reduction in potable water consumption
- 56% reduction in wastewater discharge

*Reference – Battery Park City Authority Manhattan Borough, NYC, The Solaire – Alliance Environmental, LLC*

# U.S. Examples – Urban: Green Streetscapes (Neighborhood Scale)



# Example: Building GI/LID Framework in Raleigh NC



Policies & Ordinances	Coordinated & Trained Staff	Tools & Incentives	Outreach & Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City Policy</li> <li>• Refined Codes</li> <li>• Legal Representation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration</li> <li>• Standard Operating Protocols (SOP)                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Development</li> <li>– City Property (roads, parks, facilities)</li> <li>– Utilities</li> <li>– Emergency services</li> <li>– Solid Waste services</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI/LID Templates</li> <li>• GI/LID Checklists</li> <li>• Performance Standards</li> <li>• Cost Tool</li> <li>• O &amp; M Manual</li> <li>• Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Expedited Approval</li> <li>• Fees Reduction</li> <li>• Cost Rebate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration Projects</li> <li>• Multi-Media Program</li> <li>• Training &amp; Certification</li> </ul>



# One Water Goals – It Takes Collaboration



# Enabling a TBL approach: Put community first



- Practically speaking, requires local leadership...
  - Good governance
  - Strong backing of the business community
- Functionally, requires...
  - Incentives
    - Financial, social, regulatory
  - Institutional capacity
    - Ability to administer and support implementation
    - Link science, technology and policy





# Q&A/Discussion



## Contact Information:

Trevor Clements, President, Tt Engineering P.C.

Email: [trevor.clements@tetratech.com](mailto:trevor.clements@tetratech.com)

Direct: (919) 485 – 2058

