

Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) Mission Statement—(Revised Strategic Plan adopted by ICWP Board of Directors 5/6/21)

It is the mission of the Interstate Council on Water Policy (ICWP) to enhance the stewardship of the nation’s water resources. We accomplish this mission by:

- Serving as the national policy voice for the state and interstate water resource managers and planners.
- Providing a national forum for the evaluation of policy issues and the development of solutions to water resource challenges.
- Providing leadership in the promotion and implementation of national policies supporting integrated water resource planning and management.
- Providing opportunities for members to engage federal agency and Congressional leaders in shaping national water policy.

ICWP Strategic Plan 2021-2026

Focus Area 1. Align Federal Water Policies with State/Interstate Goals

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Federal policies concerning water resources are aligned with & reflect state & interstate authorities, needs & capabilities	Engage ICWP members on proposed federal policy and legislation	Membership is made aware of and actively engaged with upcoming policy & legislative issues
	Engage federal agencies in dialogue about ICWP's positions	Board & Membership adopt resolutions & letters of support and deliver them effectively
	Actively engage with & educate appropriate congressional committee staff	Meaningful actions to communicate & coordinate with those that influence legislation
	Provide critical review/analysis of federal agency programs & initiatives	ICWP provides assessments & timely comments on federal programs & proposals
	Build and expand coalitions to increase the impact of state/interstate participation, offering strength in numbers and a unified voice	ICWP coordinates position statements with other NGOs
	Engage with and outreach to other similar organizations	Increased participation in committees, roundtables, annual meetings, etc.
		Continued information-sharing with ICWP members, colleagues, and prospective members

Focus Area 2. Integrated Planning for Sustainable Management

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Effective federal water policy that supports integrated planning for sustainable water resource management	Advocate for federal support of state & interstate planning efforts	ICWP policy positions, other action based on committee recommendations
		Enhanced federal funding supporting state & interstate planning
	Coordination of state/interstate plans with federal agencies that have planning or regulatory authority	State/interstate plans are recognized & supported by federal agency decisions
	Identify impediments & opportunities	ICWP Committees develop assessment of impediments, recommend actions, and strategic, forward-looking approaches
	Organize/promote large-scale watershed collaboration	Feature “interstate track” in the annual planners’ conference
	Provide the forum for Members to learn from others, identify needs & drivers	Water planning panel session at Annual Meetings that address integrated consideration of uses and hydrologic components
		Federal agencies’ plans adapt to state/interstate priorities
		Establish an annual “planning conference” for water planners to enhance tools and practices, share lessons learned
Effective state and regional policies that support integrated planning for sustainable water resource management	Provide a forum (state-to-state, state-to-region) to highlight integrated planning and the benefits of interagency cooperation	Information resources are easily accessible/able to be shared
		Relevant speakers/forums/resources are offered on integrated planning generally, and economic impacts & infrastructure investment specifically

Focus Area 3. **Water Data & Science to Inform Policy and Planning**

Desired Policy Outcome	ICWP Role	Metric for Success
Effective integrated water science tools for making water resource decisions	Advocate for robust data collection/analysis programs (well structured & funded)	Full implementation of NSIP (substantial progress toward backbone monitoring network)
	Provide a forum for Members to identify & prioritize enhancements to existing water science services and products	USGS establishes scientific characterization of uncertainty and relative confidence for data, estimates, models and interpretive studies needed in water resource policy
		Committee assessment of gaps & limitations in federal monitoring networks and interpretive science needed to inform water resource policy
	Advocate for responsible representation and utilization of 'big data', and how it is collected, communicated, delivered and used	Panel discussion of NSIP & CWP priorities at Ann Mtg leading to Committee recommendations
		Forums and/or training around data interpretation and 'prediction' in planning
		Forums and/or training on responsible information-sharing with end users
	Promote more direct state/interstate and tribal involvement in federal agency & congressional initiatives (collaboration on planning & design of programs, tools and regulations, not just reactive)	Federal agencies show mid-way development for ICWP and other NGO input representing non-federal viewpoint