Questions for Public Input

DEC is seeking the public's input to help guide evaluation of water reuse and water conservation opportunities at high-water demand industrial facilities and publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) operating in NYS. DEC is specifically seeking input on the questions listed below. The public should provide additional information to DEC beyond these questions which may be relevant. This is a list of all questions listed in the survey. **Please submit responses through the online survey that this document is attached to.**

1. Are there recommended specific directives that a joint agency workgroup on water reuse and conservation should focus on, or specific outcomes that should be prioritized? *Please provide rationale for any recommendations.*

2. Are there specific industries or sectors where water reuse or conservation should be prioritized? *Please explain rationale for recommendation.*

3. Are there broad or general goals for water reuse or conservation, if applicable, that NYS should consider as part of its water resource planning efforts (i.e. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs), Nine Element Watershed Based Plans (9E plans), Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) Action Plans etc.) to help improve water quality, limit pollutant loads, or water quantity? *Please explain rationale for recommendation.*

4. Would additional funding sources to investigate and/or implement water reuse impact your decision to pursue water reuse or water conservation opportunities? *Please explain.*

5. What are specific ways in which water reuse should be incentivized in NYS beyond potential modification of existing grant and finance programs? Are these methods specific to certain industrial or wastewater sectors, private or public? (For example, discounts to water and sewer bills if approved wastewater recycling systems are in use). *Please explain rationale for recommendation*.

6. What factors should be evaluated by industries and POTWs undertaking water reuse or conservation projects? Please explain rationale for recommendation.

7. What opportunities exist or what practices are currently being implemented within industrial processes for water reuse (i.e., irrigation, toilet flushing, cooling, recirculating through processes, etc.)? *Please provide specific industries and their associated reuse potential opportunities.*

8. How could water reuse requirements affect production or competitiveness? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

9. When evaluating water reuse and conservation practices, what specific trade-offs between water use and energy consumption should be considered for high water demand industries? *Please explain.*

10. What barriers have industries encountered, or what barriers are expected to be encountered, when considering water reuse options within industrial operations (Additional treatment needs? Costs? Handling new waste streams? Regulatory barriers? Etc.)? *Please provide as much detail as possible on the implications of the identified barriers*.

11. What benefits, beyond water resource conservation, could be realized by an industry who successfully reuses water within their operations? *Please provide specific cost benefit analysis/data if available.*

12. Are there particular regions in NYS where water reuse and conservation should be prioritized (e.g. the region may be more drought susceptible, or there may be more water-sensitive industries, or is a high-demand area for water withdrawal)? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

13. Are there particular water reuse and conservation activities that are the highest benefit, lowest cost that DEC should focus attention on? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

14. EPA's Water Reuse Action Plan 2.0 (https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/water-reuse-action-plan-20) was recently released. Are there specific recommended actions in this plan that NYS should evaluate further for integration into a comprehensive approach to water reuse? *Please explain rationale for recommendation.*

15. DEC is focused on industries and POTWs, should DEC be thinking about other types of water reuse and conservation opportunities that are available and feasible at the local, business, or individual homeowner scale? *Please provide the data or information to support the recommendations.*

16. What local laws or ordinances have been successful at siting and incentivizing water reuse infrastructure? *Please provide the data or information to support your response*.

17. What local laws or ordinances have been successful at achieving compliance with water reuse or water use restrictions? *Please provide the data or information to support your response.*

18. What are potentially unintended consequences of water reuse technologies? *Please provide the data or information to support your response.*

19. Are there negative perceptions of reclaimed water and what are the concerns? What measures or resources are necessary to alleviate the concerns? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

20. Are there environmentally sound and economically feasible water conservation practices, other than water reuse, that DEC should also focus efforts on? (e.g., water metering, water auditing, leak detection and repair, etc.) *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

21. Are there recommendations for data center cooling technologies that can be implemented to limit consumptive water use (e.g., water lost to evaporation or processes) and/or limit thermal impacts on the environment, surface water resources, or groundwater resources? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

22. What are your most significant concerns related to high-demand water industries? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response*.

23. Are there potential unintended consequences of data center water conservation or water reuse efforts that might shift environmental burdens to offsite facilities, such as power generation facilities? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

24. Are there recommendations for technologies and practices that could be used to mitigate offsite water resources impacts or environmental burdens associated with data center development? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

25. Are there any additional factors that should be considered to evaluate water reuse and water conservation opportunities at high-water demand industrial facilities and publicly owned treatment works (POTWs) operating in NYS? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*

26. In alignment with EO 62's Community Investment Framework, how could data center developers or operators partner with host communities to support upgrades to local public water systems or wastewater treatment plants, and ensure communities share directly in the benefits of development? *Please provide as much detail as possible to support your response.*