



About the Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative

Nationwide, old lead service lines connect an estimated 6.1 million or more homes and businesses to community drinking water mains. The Lead Service Line Replacement Collaborative is a joint effort of 25 national public health, water utility, environmental, labor, consumer, housing, and state and local governmental organizations to accelerate full removal of the lead pipes providing drinking water to millions of American homes.

In January 2017, the Collaborative released an [online toolkit](#) to help communities voluntarily develop and implement lead service line (LSL) removal programs. The Collaborative's toolkit includes a roadmap for getting started, suggested practices to identify and remove LSLs in a safe, equitable, and cost-effective manner, policies to consider to support local efforts, and links to additional resources that may be helpful when developing local programs.

The work of the LSL Replacement collaborative is grounded in the following principles:

- Removal of lead service lines in contact with drinking water provides an opportunity to significantly reduce the risk of exposure to lead in drinking water.
- LSL replacement initiatives must be designed to ensure residents are protected during and after the removal and that the work is done in a cost effective manner.
- LSL replacement initiatives should address barriers to participation so that consumers served by LSLs can benefit equitably, regardless of income, race or ethnicity.
- A collaborative, community-based approach, built on contributions from residents, health officers, utilities, community leaders, local elected officials, can help provide the strong foundation needed for successful action.
- Innovative models are needed to help communities find the tools, strategies and resources needed to replace LSLs based on the latest science and current best practices.
- By providing models for LSL replacement, it is possible to advance support for initiatives at all levels of government and in different types of communities.
- Successful LSL replacement initiatives will take careful planning and time.
- This effort is focused on mechanisms to support local action not on EPA's efforts to revise the Lead and Copper Rule.

The Collaborative is currently seeking feedback on its toolkit, particularly from communities who are engaged or interested in LSL replacement initiatives.

Pilot LSL Replacement Projects

Following the release of the online toolkit, the focus of the Collaborative is to encourage communities around the country to develop and begin implementing plans for full replacement of lead service lines. This can start with a simple conversation about the current situation in a community – What is known about where lead materials are in contact with drinking water? What plans for replacement already exist? What issues need to be addressed and who should be involved in planning a full LSL replacement program? In other situations, local elected officials, the water utility, and other community leaders may already have a LSL replacement plan or have begun the planning process and may have specific technical, policy, or funding questions.

Developing and implementing an effective LSL replacement program represents a significant undertaking by a utility and a community. It takes leadership and sustained effort. The Collaborative is available to help communities start a conversation and to connect people at any stage of the process to others who have relevant expertise. The Collaborative also encourages communities to consider becoming a "pilot" community and to share their experiences with others. The Collaborative will work with community leaders to identify what assistance would be most useful, to seek funding for local initiatives, and to bring pilot communities together to share lessons learned.



Specific assistance to pilot communities may include some or all of the following elements:

- Convening or facilitation assistance in forming local, collaborative initiatives;
- Training and/or technical assistance;
- Suggested measures for local success, including assessing progress in implementing replacement;
- Opportunities to exchange lessons learned with other communities; and
- Recognition for successful and innovative community initiatives.

Members

Current members of the Collaborative are as follows (*Steering Committee members):

- American Public Health Association
- American Water Works Association*
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies*
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- Blue Green Alliance
- Children's Environmental Health Network*
- Clean Water Action*
- Environmental Defense Fund*
- Green and Healthy Homes Initiative
- Justice and Sustainability Associates
- Learning Disabilities Association of America
- National Center for Healthy Housing
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates
- National Association of Water Companies*
- National Conference of State Legislatures
- National Environmental Health Association
- National League of Cities
- National Rural Water Association
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- RESOLVE*
- Rural Community Assistance Partnership
- Trust for America's Health
- United Parents Against Lead
- Water Research Foundation

More information can be found on the Collaborative's website (<http://www.lslr-collaborative.org>), or by contacting a member of the Steering Committee:

- Gail Bingham, RESOLVE, gbingham@resolv.org
- Diane Van de Hei, Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies, vandehei@amwa.net
- Michael Deane, National Association of Water Companies, michael@nawc.com
- Tom Neltner, Environmental Defense Fund, tneltner@edf.org
- Lynn Thorp, Clean Water Action, lthorp@cleanwater.org
- Kristie Trousedale, Children's Environmental Health Network, kristiet@cehn.org
- Steve Via, American Water Works Association, svia@awwa.org