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## **Charting New Waters Explores the Resiliency of Water and Electric Utilities**

*Thought Leaders Explore Opportunities for Transformational Solutions to Maximize Resource Efficiency*

RACINE, Wis. (August 21, 2013) – Today, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread convened a group of leading water and energy experts to address the intersecting resource demands between water utilities and electric utilities.

Over the next three days, conference participants will examine how to foster collaboration among the water, wastewater and electric power sectors to develop mutually reinforcing solutions to resource management.

“Our nation’s water and wastewater utilities are among the largest consumers of energy, and conversely, electric utilities rely on power plants that require significant water resources,” said Lynn Broaddus, Director of the Environment Program at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. “Strategic collaboration between the water, wastewater and electric power sectors can create solutions for more efficient and resilient utilities in the future.”

Through collaborative discourse, participants will identify the challenges and opportunities facing utility providers and promote the efforts of the water and energy sectors to innovate and increase efficiency. Participants will also explore opportunities for developing and implementing mutually beneficial solutions.

"Having worked extensively on issues of water-energy interdependency, we recognize the importance of finding synergistic solutions to maximize resource efficiency and resiliency for water and wastewater and electric utilities," said Martha Davis, Executive Manager for Policy Development, [Inland Empire Utilities Agency](#), which serves a 242-square-mile area of Southern California. "We welcome the opportunity to join this diverse group of collaborators to further explore this issue."

The dialogue is part of [Charting New Waters](#), an initiative bringing together experts to examine freshwater challenges, successes, innovations and potential solutions that can bridge geographies and inform national policy.

Davis continued, "In bringing together this group, The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread has created a pivotal opportunity for us to influence the ongoing development of the water and electric power sectors to address emerging challenges."

The Johnson Foundation formally launched Charting New Waters in 2010 as an effort dedicated to catalyzing new solutions to U.S. freshwater challenges. Charting New Waters is the work of a diverse group of leaders from business, agriculture, academia and environmental organizations that have publicly committed to improving U.S. freshwater resources by advancing the principles and recommendations of the group. These recommendations were captured in a consensus report: *Charting New Waters: A Call to Action to Address U.S. Freshwater Challenges* issued in Sept. 2010. Download the report [here](#).

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[The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread](#) is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information about *Charting New Waters*, or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit [www.johnsonfdn.org](http://www.johnsonfdn.org).