



UNC School of Government Environmental Finance Center

2021 Water and Wastewater Finance Strategies Virtual Workshop

On Zoom

February 24 – 26, 2021

Wednesday, February 24th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

- 1:00 pm **Introduction and Overview of Utility Finance**
Shadi Eskaf, Research Director/Senior Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 1:30 **Viable Utilities Reserve and the State’s Approach to Assisting Distressed Units**
Discussion of viability concerns and the new program by which the LGC and DWI are identifying and assisting distressed units.
Kim Colson, Director of NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure, Chair of the State Water Infrastructure Authority
Sharon Edmundson, Deputy Treasurer, Department of State Treasurer
- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 **Self-assessing Financial Performance**
Benchmarking and tracking your utility’s financial performance.
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center
- 3:30 **Strategies to Enhance the Resilience of Utility Finances**
Rates, reserves, financial targets.
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center
- 4:00 Adjourn

Thursday, February 25th, 1:00pm – 4:00pm

- 1:00 pm **Financially Operating Under COVID-19 Conditions**
Changes to use and revenues, moratoriums, disconnections, payment plans. What’s happening in North Carolina, and tools to assist your forecasting and decision-making.
Elsemarie Mullins, Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center
- 2:15 **COVID-19 Financial Relief Funds for Customers and Utilities**
ERA / CARES Act funds
Elsemarie Mullins, Environmental Finance Center
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center



- 2:30 Break
- 2:45 **Assessing Affordability and Equity Considerations**
New metrics used by EPA, and how can utilities assess affordability and equity.
Evan Kirk, Acting Senior Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
- 3:30 **USDA Funding Programs**
Dennis DeLong, Water/Environmental Programs Specialist, USDA Rural Development
- 4:00 Adjourn

Friday, February 26th, 9:30am – 12:30pm

- 9:30 am **Trends in Rates and Capital Needs**
Update on all things rates and capital costs.
Stephen Lapp, Acting Project Director, Environmental Finance Center
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center
- 10:30 am **Updates to the Rates and Financial Sustainability Dashboard**
Demonstration of the 2021 dashboard, with emphasis on new metrics.
Christian Lutz, Acting Project Manager, Environmental Finance Center
- 11:00 Break
- 11:15 **Integrated Planning**
How it ties to wastewater utilities.
Evan Kirk, Environmental Finance Center
Christian Lutz, Environmental Finance Center
- 12:00 pm **DWI Funding Programs**
Jon Risgaard, SRF Section Chief, NC DEQ Division of Water Infrastructure
- 12:20 **Final Questions and Wrap up**
Shadi Eskaf, Environmental Finance Center
- 12:30 Adjourn