Technical assistance for water management has traditionally focused on “gray” infrastructure, such as water treatment plants or water distribution networks. Although gray infrastructure requires the funding and attention necessary to address outdated infrastructure needs and public health concerns, communities are increasingly interested in pursuing green infrastructure as a complement or alternative due to the broader set of social and economic co-benefits these projects can generate. Green infrastructure harnesses natural features to provide ecosystem services that regulate water quality or quantity. At the same time, many projects have the potential to generate additional health, environmental, economic, and social benefits, thereby increasing the value of the infrastructure to the community it serves. Green infrastructure can be a cost-effective option, but successful implementation requires knowledge of its strengths and limitations, as well as the ability to match the right solutions to a community’s needs.

New federal infrastructure funding makes implementing green infrastructure more possible than ever. However, small, rural, and underserved communities often lack the capacity and expertise to apply for funding or to design and successfully install green infrastructure projects. Whereas larger cities may have dedicated staff who are focused on green infrastructure, smaller municipalities have a more limited capacity to begin the planning process and take advantage of funding opportunities.

Technical assistance (TA) providers can help communities access funding, financing, and other resources, using many of the same services and skills that they already offer. However, TA providers are not always familiar with the green infrastructure landscape and do not know how they can be most effective in this space.

This guide aims to help technical assistance providers understand the unique challenges and opportunities of green infrastructure for water management, particularly when working with small, rural, and underserved communities. It compiles technical resources that exist across the different definitions of green infrastructure, recognizing that practitioners can use these concepts to continue developing a shared understanding of these projects and their potential. It also delivers insights from ten interviews with practitioners and other subject matter experts on how TA providers can add value to green infrastructure projects.

This guidance builds upon many of the strengths that technical assistance providers already have, such as long-term thinking and flexibility, and their ability to contribute expertise, capacity, and resources.

The main themes are:

1. Make connections.
2. Invest in human infrastructure.
3. Have a long-term mindset.
4. Elevate and articulate the community’s vision.
5. Serve as a flexible resource.
6. Navigate the financial and regulatory landscape.
7. Value (and try to quantify) co-benefits.

Although the primary audience is TA providers, this document may also be useful for municipalities, funders, and policymakers seeking to understand how they can better utilize technical assistance, lower barriers to implementing green infrastructure, and enable communities to realize the benefits of green infrastructure.

**Key Takeaways**

1. Technical assistance (TA) providers have a critical role in helping small, rural, and underserved communities overcome barriers to implementing green infrastructure projects and realizing their benefits.
2. TA providers have historically focused on gray infrastructure, so there is a need to translate and supplement this expertise for green infrastructure.
3. Regulators, funders, and TA providers can collaborate to continue making green infrastructure more accessible for all communities.

Read the [full report here](#) and visit our website for more information on technical assistance opportunities.