

ciwt

Center For Innovative
Water Technologies

A new wave of solutions
for the age of smart water

MISSION

The nonprofit Center for Innovative Water Technologies (CIWT) was established in 2011 to catalyze and focus the development of a new wave of technology solutions, education, and public policy to **IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF WATER QUALITY AND WATER RESOURCES** worldwide.

FOCUS

The CIWT will pursue technologies that target challenges across the **COMPLETE WATER-CYCLE CONTINUUM**, focusing initially on innovations that improve the management of wastewater and coastal water resources and that address their effects on drinking water. Other technology interest areas include purification, desalination, the energy-water nexus, and conservation.

APPROACH

Applying principles of focused cooperation and entrepreneurship, the CIWT is configured to empower **EARLY-STAGE, TECHNOLOGY-DRIVEN SOLUTIONS** by:

- Linking the domains of research and technology development, private industry, and government policy into a dedicated niche for water innovation
- Enabling public- and private-sector policy-makers and capital-providers to connect and catalyze effective responses to regional, national, and global water challenges

Using this approach, the CIWT will transform water problems into **NEW TECHNOLOGIES, SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSES, AND EFFECTIVE POLICIES**.

LOCATION

The CIWT is strategically located in Woods Hole (Cape Cod), Massachusetts to provide entrepreneurs and water technology innovators access to the region's exceptional range of fresh-, brackish, and saltwater **NATURAL RESOURCES** and features, world-leading marine-ecology-engineering research institutions and **EXPERTISE**, and critical water-technology testing **INFRASTRUCTURE** that is required to advance innovation.

PLANNED COMPONENTS

1. Water Technology Innovation Accelerator

Working with leading research institutions, the accelerator will identify commercially promising technologies that can be developed at the CIWT. The CIWT accelerator will:

- Facilitate interactions and support from leading water companies, investors, and government regulatory authorities to optimize the path to commercialization
- Provide laboratory and office space as well as access to core engineering prototyping capabilities and wet laboratory facilities
- Provide entrepreneurial services, including identification of management teams for start-ups, business planning, and market development
- Advise innovators on strategic alliances and licensing of new water-related technologies

2. Verification and Testing Sites

"Living Laboratory" at MBL: This 72-acre site provided by the Marine Biological Laboratory (MBL) in Woods Hole comprises 76 residential

cottages to enable “real-world” evaluation of technologies prior to their commercial deployment. The site will feature a network of “intelligent,” wireless sensors that will provide innovators, entrepreneurs, and regulators a relatively low-cost way to explore, test, refine, and validate technologies under real-world conditions.

Massachusetts Alternative Septic System Test Center: One of only two such facilities in the U.S., MASSTC is a nationally recognized test site for innovative septic technology. MASSTC has the ability to alter geological conditions that may affect wastewater discharge and nutrient loading and is capable of running 12 months a year to test technologies against changing seasonal conditions and temperatures.

3. Center for Water Sciences Education and Policy

The CIWT will serve as a hub for water-related information exchange to facilitate **PUBLIC AWARENESS AND ADOPTION** of new technologies, with a focus on:

- Advancing education about smart water use and management—for example, facilitating cultural shifts in new ways of using and conserving water, such as potential reuse of wastewater as drinking water or as “gray water” for irrigation
- Advancing science and public policy to reduce obstacles and improve market conditions for the adoption of new water technologies

WATER TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT FUND

This proposed initiative would address the lack of seed-stage equity financing that is critically needed to support the transition from invention toward commercial development. The Water Technology Investment Fund would provide innovators initial financing to **ACHIEVE COMMERCIAL PROOF OF PRINCIPLE** and the developmental positioning required to secure additional funding. The fund would be affiliated with, but managed independently from, the CIWT.

Key Factors Driving the Need for New Water Management Technology Solutions, Education, and Public Policy:

Population growth and rising demand for water
Pollution increases & deteriorating water quality
Aging & insufficient infrastructure
Increasing regulation
Rising energy costs
Diminishing underground water sources
Health concerns about emerging contaminants
Economic and environmental costs of moving and treating water and wastewater

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