D+

2021: D+

2025 REPORT CARD FOR AMERICA'S INFRASTRUCTURE

Wastewater

SUMMARY

The nation's water infrastructure is aging and underfunded. Over 9 million lead service lines pose health risks, and the EPA estimates a $625 billion investment need over 20 years, $150 billion more than its 2018 assessment. While the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act allocated over $30 billion for improvements, lead removal, and PFAS mitigation, funding gaps persist in state revolving funds. Utilities face challenges from aging systems, emerging contaminants, and extreme weather. Many are adopting predictive technologies, but only 30% have fully implemented asset management plans. Federal support helps utilities meet regulations and reduce the burden on ratepayers. systems of small communities.

FAST FACTS

- 66 million Americans rely on on-site wastewater systems like septic systems.
- Wastewater systems face new costs as they address emerging contaminants.
- Most wastewater treatment plants are designed with an average lifespan of 40 to 50 years.
- In 2024, ASCE's Bridging the Gap economic study reported the water infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater) investment gap at $99 billion annually, up from the $81 billion estimated in ASCE's 2021 "Failure to Act" report.

SOLUTIONS TO RAISE THE GRADE

- ✓ Boost wastewater resilience by implementing vulnerability assessments and emergency response plans.
- ✓ Ensure utility rates cover full service costs and communicate increases clearly while balancing affordability.
- ✓ Include localized climate impact projections in wastewater planning and long-term funding decisions.

To explore more solutions to raise the grades check out infrastructurereportcard.org

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