



**Ground Water Protection Council (GWPC)/
US Department of Energy (USDOE)**

Water-Energy Sustainability Symposium Organization

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Watercat was contracted through the Ground Water Protection Council to develop a joint “Water-Energy Sustainability Symposium” in Salt Lake City with the U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) and National Energy Technology Laboratory. This symposium was developed to improve understanding of the different perspectives on water and energy resource management, and creating “strategies for synergies” in the development and use of water and energy at the building, city, farm, industry, river basin, and regional scale. Working closely with GWPC staff and planning committee including members from the GWPC, USDOE, the Energy-Water Nexus National Lab Team, Watercat supported development of a program that included an overview of the water-energy nexus from a national, state, local, and international level, as well as tracks specifically exploring “energy perspectives on water,” “water perspectives on energy” and “integrated water-energy planning.” The 2009 Water-Energy Sustainability Symposium was developed to bring together representatives from state and federal agencies as well as 26 associations in the water, energy, and power sectors.

The Symposium also featured speakers on global issues related to water and energy. Special presentations were provided by Actor and Humanitarian Don Johnson, on merging commercial and humanitarian issues related to water and energy; Camille Dow-Baker, Founder of the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology (www.cawst.org) on zero-footprint water treatment systems for “the poorest of the poor;” and a downlink from the space station by astronaut Nicole Stott, a board member for “Manna Energy,” which is an organization started by the Engineers Without Borders chapter at the Johnson Space Center that is helping to create water systems in developing countries that are made economically sustainable through the integration of on-site renewable energy systems and sale of carbon credits. In addition to the presentations, more than one-third of the Symposium participants provided responses to a questionnaire on emerging issues in energy water use and quality (“water-for-energy”), water perspectives on energy (“energy-for-water”), integrated water-energy planning, and what roles different organizations and levels of government can play in addressing these issues. A pre-conference seminar was also provided on water and energy law.

Outcomes: This first Water-Energy Sustainability Symposium drew more than 300 participants and featured more than 80 presentations. GWPC hosted a second Water-Energy Sustainability Symposium in Pittsburgh, PA, with more than 400



participants. Watercat was contracted by GWPC/USDOE for an additional project to develop an educational document entitled “Water+Energy Sustainability: Policy and Perspectives” which drew upon the materials presented at the 2009 Symposium and subsequent presentations. These activities provided an increased opportunity for dialogue between different agencies, industrial sectors, and other stakeholders on the opportunities for more coordinated approaches to water and energy resource management.