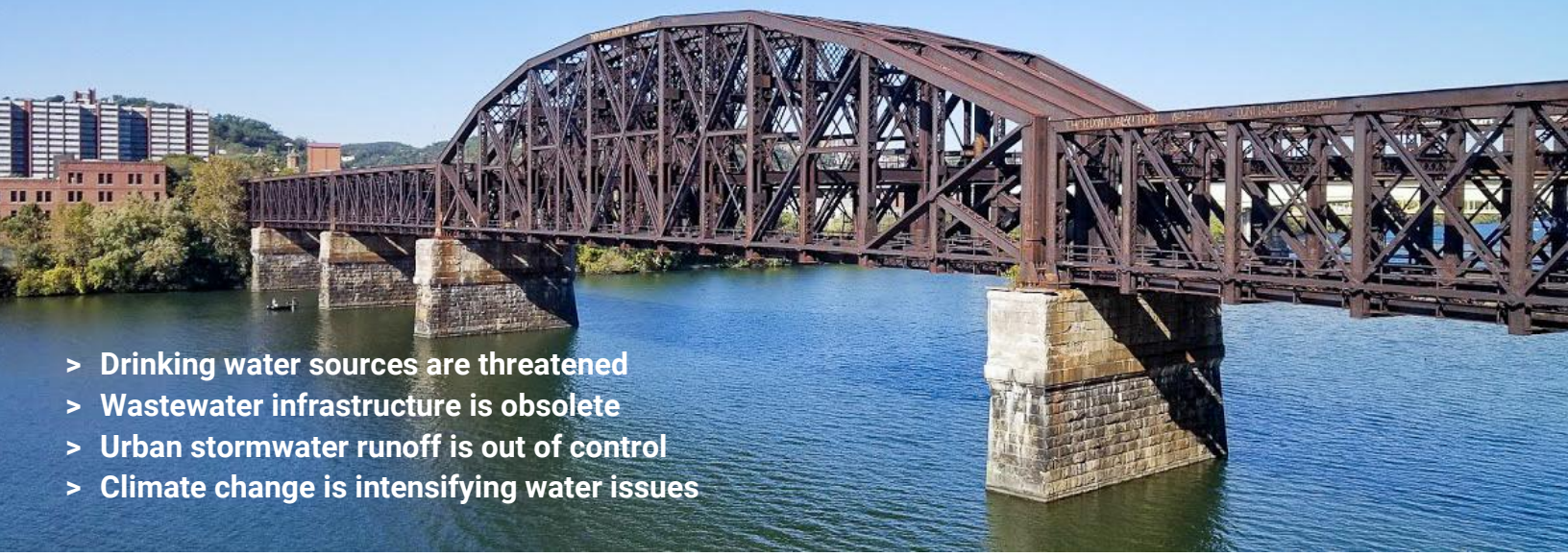
Water is vital. We can't take it for granted.

Water is essential to growing food, transporting goods, managing waste, and nourishing our bodies. We face global and local water challenges that must be addressed for humans to survive and thrive.



- > **Drinking water sources are threatened**
- > **Wastewater infrastructure is obsolete**
- > **Urban stormwater runoff is out of control**
- > **Climate change is intensifying water issues**

Pittsburgh Collaboratory for WATER

Research, Education, Outreach

Our clean water future can be found where science and community meet.

The **Pittsburgh Collaboratory for Water** at the University of Pittsburgh bridges efforts in water research, governance, and action.

Water is a defining feature of life in western Pennsylvania, but the region faces serious water challenges: raw sewage overflows, aging infrastructure, and industrial contamination to name a few.

Together, the Pittsburgh region is committed to finding sustainable, research-based solutions.

By connecting universities, local governments, non-profits, and community groups, the Pittsburgh Water Collaboratory aims to align efforts across the region. We work to ensure that data and expertise are accessible to those who need it, that research responds to real needs, and that students are prepared to solve real challenges, today and tomorrow.

Together we can build a more resilient region.

We empower our partners with the scientific knowledge and expert guidance needed to address the water challenges threatening western Pennsylvania. Our work ensures a future in which each and every person in our region enjoys a life sustained by clean, safe, and accessible water.

What we learn here at home informs solutions in communities around the world facing similar challenges.

Research

We partner with authorities and communities to improve everyone's scientific understanding of the water issues we face and how to solve them.

Our study of lake sediment in Harmar Township identified the main contributors of heavy metal contamination and recommendations to prevent future impacts.

Education

We provide University of Pittsburgh students with experiences solving real-world water problems in collaboration with local communities.

Our graduate course *Answering Regional Challenges in Water Sustainability* immerses students in service-learning projects in flood-prone communities.

Action

We collaborate with local government and non-governmental organizations to enhance regional resiliency.

We facilitated *Green Infrastructure for Stormwater Management*, a collaborative stakeholder process that built consensus for a regional green infrastructure agenda.

Questions we're asking

- What are the best practices for developing green infrastructure in the Pittsburgh region?
- How do soil conditions affect flooding in urban areas?
- What are the sources of harmful algal blooms and how can we reduce them?
- How is Pittsburgh's topography and damaged sewer infrastructure related to water quality?
- How are current and past energy extraction activities impacting water quality in the region?
- Where can we safely install remediation systems without disturbing old contaminants?

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