

# Shape Our Water

*A 50 Year Plan for Seattle's Water Resilience*

Leslie Webster – DWW Planning Manager



A 50 Year Plan for Seattle's  
Water Resilience



**Seattle  
Public  
Utilities**

A scenic sunset over a city and water with mountains in the background. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a golden glow over the sky and water. The city buildings are silhouetted against the bright light, and the mountains in the distance are also silhouetted. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sun.

## Shape Our Water: Planning Goal

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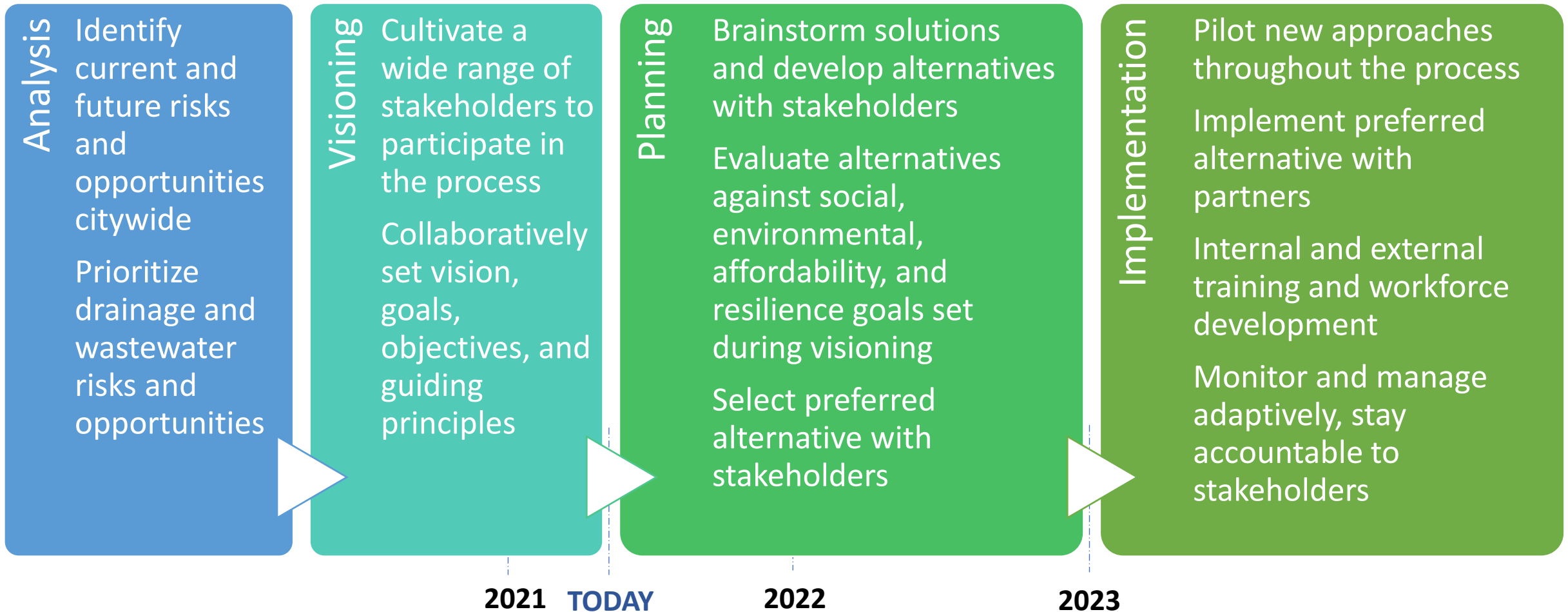
*Identify the best investment strategy to achieve the greatest environmental and community benefits for Seattle at the lowest cost to our customers.*

## Planning Theory

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***water infrastructure*** can be a ***platform***  
*for public health, social cohesion,  
environmental justice, cultural identity,  
and a wide range of other  
social, environmental and economic benefits*

# Shape Our Water: Process



# Intent Statement

[www.shapeourwater.org/about-shape-our-water](http://www.shapeourwater.org/about-shape-our-water)

- Provide stakeholders the transparency needed to build trust
- Expression of where SPU is starting from and what we bring to the table
- Commitment to:
  - *Environmental stewardship*
  - *Environmental justice*
  - *Regulatory compliance*
  - *Affordability*
  - *Equity*
  - *Science and data*
  - *Collaboration*
  - *Empowerment*



SPU's Drainage and Wastewater Line of Business is developing the Shape Our Water Plan – a 50-year plan for Seattle's water resilience. **As we strive to create a shared vision** for this plan with our communities and stakeholders, we want to be clear about our base responsibilities and commitments upfront. The goal of this statement of intent is to provide transparency about SPU's intentions for this planning effort. We hope this transparency will help build the trust that is needed to meaningfully and equitably collaborate with you to develop the Shape Our Water Plan.

SPU is responsible for providing drainage and wastewater services for the City of Seattle. Provision of these services means that we are the stewards of publicly owned physical infrastructure systems that have taken over a century to build. **Our duty is to manage those systems efficiently and sustainably to protect public health, safety, and the environment.**

Our customers trust in SPU to wisely invest their rates in the management and improvement of these systems both today and in the years to come. As we embark on a collaborative process to determine how SPU will invest in programs, projects, and partnerships that achieve the greatest environmental and community benefits for Seattle at the lowest cost to our customers we are committed to:



Let's do this, together.  
Find out how at  
[ShapeOurWater.com](http://ShapeOurWater.com)



# Equity Framework

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- Drafted through a series of trainings and workshops lead by equity advisors
- Articulates the racial equity *values* and *principles* for Shape Our Water
- Provides direction in decision-making and practice
- Living document that is revisited throughout plan development

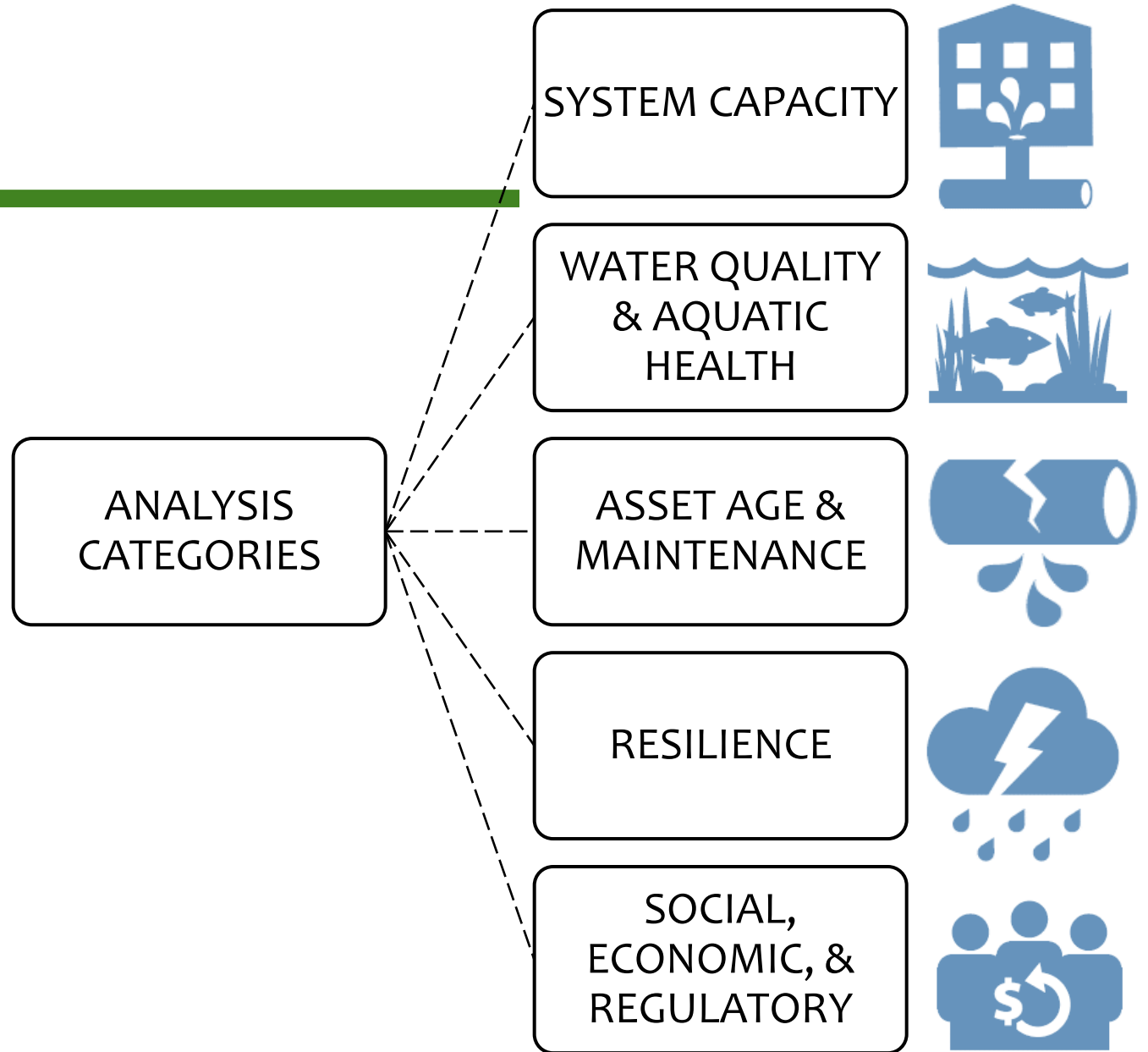
## Values

- Environmental Justice
- Service Equity
- Climate Justice
- Community Wealth Building

## Principles

- Lead work with a racial equity analysis
- Work collaboratively
- Be innovative
- Be clear about our power
- Be strategic
- Be willing to confront systems
- Work boldly and courageously

# Analysis Stage



# Visioning Stage

COVID-responsive engagement approach:

## Broad, citywide engagement

- Media Campaign
- DWW 101
- Virtual Tours
- Community Stories

## Focused engagement with key partners

- In-reach*
- 1x1 conversations*
- Fireside Series
- Digital Convening
- Design Team





# Visioning Stage

[www.shapeourwater.org/events](http://www.shapeourwater.org/events)



- ***Moving Waters*** featured local Tribal members exploring how their relationship with water has shifted throughout time.
- ***Water Justice*** featured national and local leaders exploring what it means to lead with equity in infrastructure projects.
- ***Planning For Our Water Future*** featured national and international examples of creating a community centered vision for long range planning.



# Visioning Stage

## 3. COMMUNITY STORIES



- Multi-media stories about community members' personal connections to urban waters.
- Each story is a collaboration between the storytellers and a team of local production partners, including South Seattle Emerald and KVRU.

[www.shapeourwater.org/community-stories](http://www.shapeourwater.org/community-stories)



FEATURES

SHAPE OUR WATER:  
MAGDALENA 'MAGGIE' ANGEL-  
CANO

🕒 MAY 6, 2021 🗑 EDITOR 💬 LEAVE A COMMENT

# Visioning Stage

[www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater](http://www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater)



- Drainage and wastewater systems and services are often invisible – people only experience us when there is a problem.
- This “101” helps show how SPU infrastructure and services positively affect their communities.



**YOUR  
DRAINAGE AND  
WASTEWATER  
SERVICES**

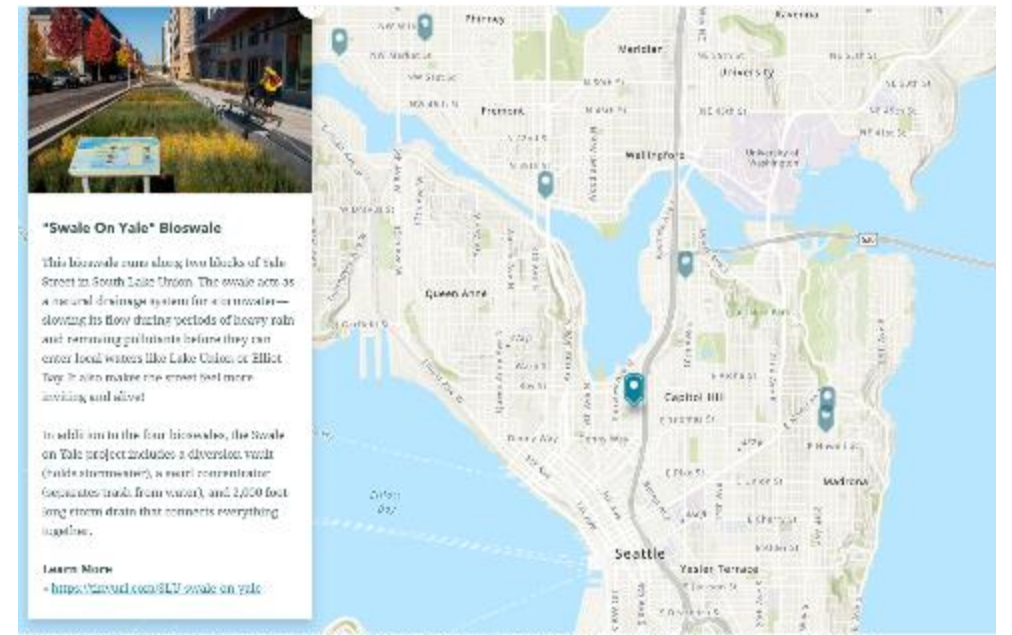


# Visioning Stage

[www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater](http://www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater)



- Online ESRI Story Map with 20 sites including both green and grey infrastructure
- Future updates in add:
  - Watershed History
  - Synthesis of Analysis Data



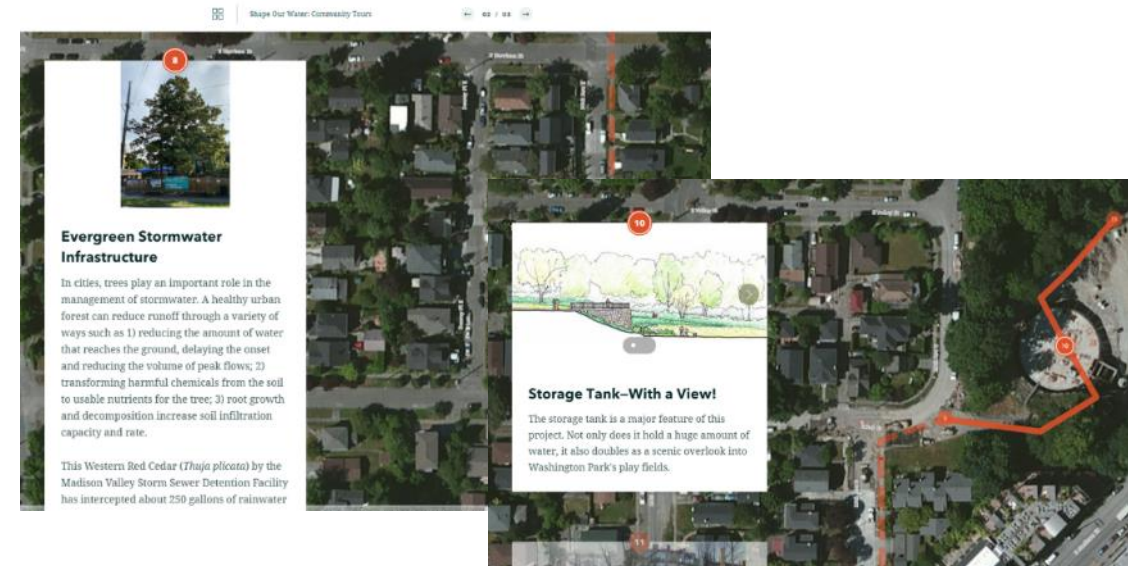
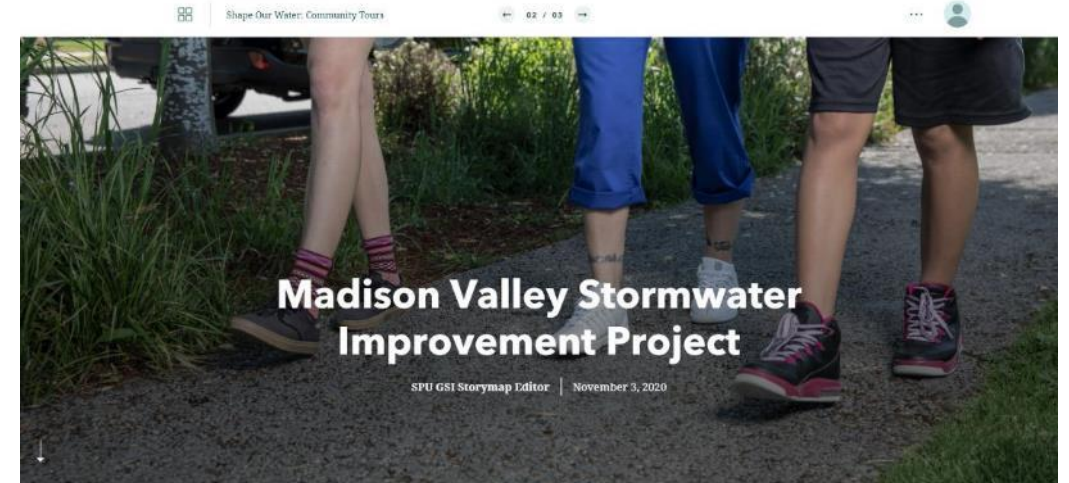


# Visioning Stage

[www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater](http://www.shapeourwater.org/about-drainage-and-wastewater)



- Opportunity for people to tour infrastructure projects from the safety of their home (during COVID pandemic)
- 3 tours include:
  - *Madison Valley*
  - *Highpoint*
  - *Meadowbrook Pond*



# Visioning Stage – Focused Engagement

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Biruk Belay



Michelle Benetua



Nancy Huizar



Jescelle Major



Ishmael Nuñez



Matt Remle

## *Design Team*

- Worked with SPU staff to co-create the Fireside Series, focus group, and Convening
- Members lend their expertise about issues important to the community and helped with recruiting, reducing barriers to participation, facilitation, and distilling post-event feedback





## Focus Group

What is your vision for Seattle? What will the city look like in 50 years?



# Digital Convening

Videos of Convening available at:

[www.ShapeOurWater.org/convening](http://www.ShapeOurWater.org/convening)

Brought together stakeholders and community together to envision potential foundational principles needed to truly execute a community centered and multi-benefit long range infrastructure plan.





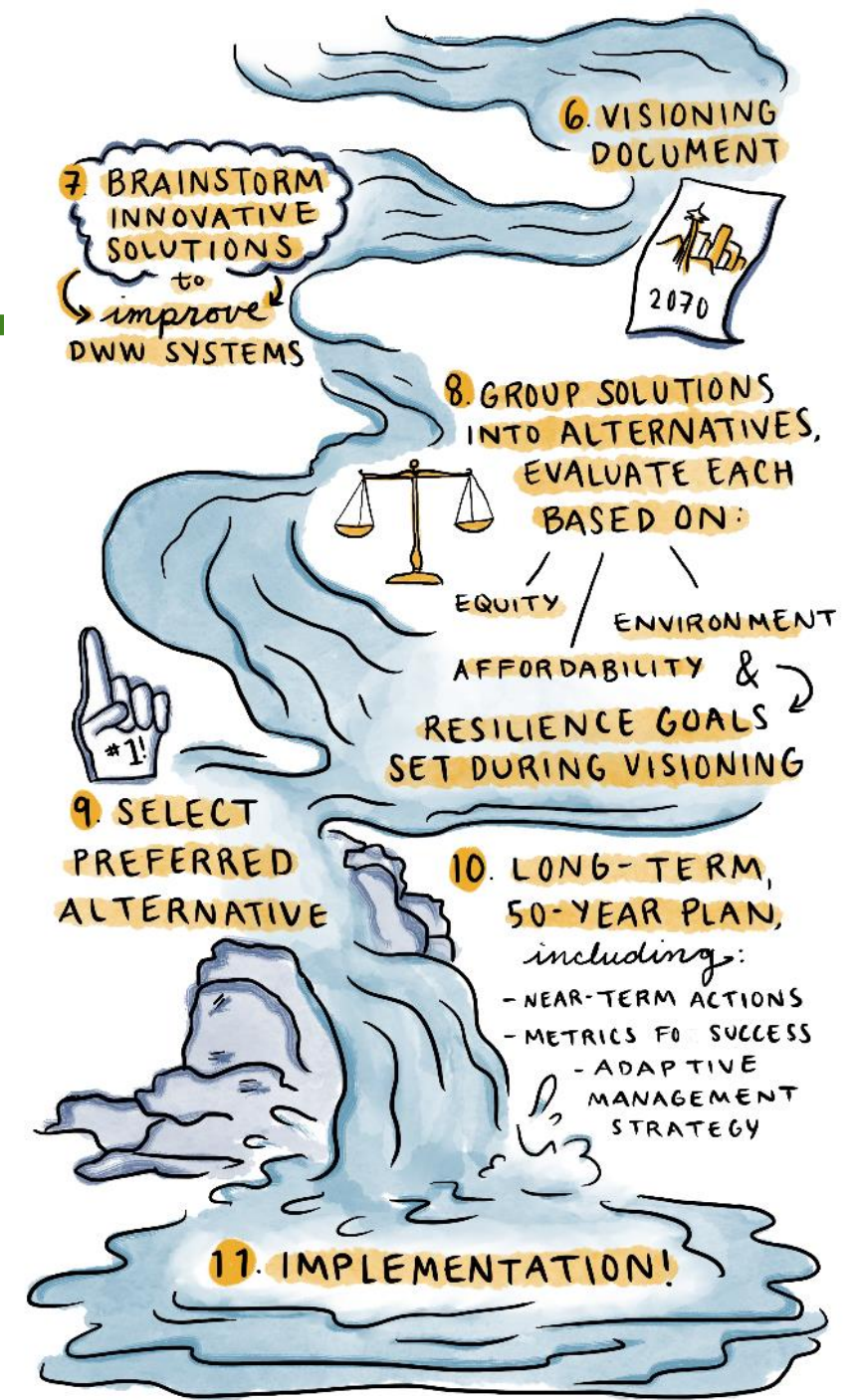
# Visioning Document



- We are currently synthesizing all the input we received into a draft Shape Our Water vision document
- The document will be publicly accessible later this year on [www.ShapeOurWater.org](http://www.ShapeOurWater.org)
- The document will remain DRAFT – ongoing refinements will continue throughout the remainder of plan development
- Final visioning document will be incorporated into the Shape Our Water Plan.

# Up Next: Planning

- Builds directly from analysis and visioning
- Engagement approach will compliment planning approach
- Equity will continue to be central to our process and outcomes
- Starting: Q3, 2021
- Finishing: by the end of 2023
- ~2-year process



# Thank you! Questions?

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## Seattle Public Utilities

