



MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD TODAY!

Tell Illinois and other Midwest members of Congress you embrace the Freshwater Lab's Liquid Gold vision.

Ask them to support investing \$200,000 in federal funding for the research necessary to bring a new water recycling facility to Illinois that will benefit our entire state and region.

LEARN MORE:
[FRESHWATERLAB.ORG/WATER-RECYCLING](https://freshwaterlab.org/water-recycling)

LIQUID

GOLD

RUST BELT NO MORE

A new water recycling facility can transform Chicago into the capital of the 21st-century "Water Belt"



CHICAGO IS AT THE CROSSROADS
OF THE WATER TREATMENT FUTURE.

LEADERS HAVE A CHOICE BETWEEN TWO DIRECTIONS:



1. THE “STATUS QUO” PATH

Continuing to rely on the costly, inefficient **Chicago Deep Tunnel Diversion**, a technologically outdated 109-mile system of tunnels and reservoirs that holds the region’s mix of sewage and rain to stagger its arrival at water treatment plants.

This path is **failing too many communities** in Illinois and beyond with devastating results, including untreated wastewater spilling into Lake Michigan.



2. BUILD A WATER RECYCLING FACILITY IN CHICAGOLAND

The Freshwater Lab – a think tank on water issues based at the University of Illinois at Chicago – proposes **a new, smarter path.**

We need to stop treating our water like garbage that has no value and sits unused in the Deep Tunnel before it’s discharged into Lake Michigan and elsewhere.

Our aim is to introduce state-of-the-art technology that turns recycled storm- and wastewater into clean water available for agriculture, industry and data center cooling systems.

Let’s put this “liquid gold” to work. Our vision would transform Illinois from a Rust Belt state to **the capital of the 21st-century “Water Belt.”**

THE FRESHWATER LAB’S CALL FOR A NEW WATER RECYCLING FACILITY WOULD:



Supply recycled water for sale to industry and agriculture so they can curb their withdrawals from Lake Michigan and allow depleted aquifers to recharge.



Create thousands of new jobs in building the plant and the pipes to bring recycled water to drought-stricken Illinois communities and states throughout the Midwest, including Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas.



Forge a clean and sustainable industry for a new era at a plant where biogas can be captured, minerals harvested and potable water generated from waste.

Together, we can protect Chicago and downstream towns from flooding by providing a destination for extreme rainfalls, while generating revenue instead of expense.