**Course Description:**

**The Well-Informed, Sustainable Community: A Water Workshop for Elected Officials**

This essential workshop, drawing insights from the EPA's Rural and Small Systems Guidebook to Sustainable Utility Management, equips elected officials with the knowledge and tools to champion sustainable water practices in their communities. Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing rural water systems and learn how to make informed decisions that promote long-term water security, environmental health, and economic vitality.

**Key Topics:**

* **Understanding Water Sustainability:** Explore the core principles of sustainable water management and their implications for rural communities.
* **Financial Planning and Rate Setting:** Learn strategies for developing sound financial plans, setting appropriate rates, and securing funding for infrastructure improvements.
* **Operational Efficiency and Asset Management:** Discover best practices for optimizing operations, maintaining infrastructure, and reducing water loss.
* **Water Quality and Source Protection:** Gain insights into safeguarding water quality, protecting source waters, and complying with regulations.
* **Community Engagement and Communication:** Develop effective strategies for engaging stakeholders, building public trust, and fostering a culture of water conservation.
* **Leadership and Governance:** Explore the critical role of elected officials in promoting sustainable water management and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

**Who Should Attend:**

* Elected officials in rural communities
* Water utility board members
* County and municipal leaders
* Anyone interested in promoting sustainable water management in rural areas

**By the end of this workshop, participants will be able to:**

* Make informed decisions that support the long-term sustainability of their community's water resources.
* Advocate for policies and investments that promote water conservation, infrastructure improvements, and environmental protection.
* Communicate effectively with constituents about water-related issues and build support for sustainable water initiatives.
* Collaborate with stakeholders to develop and implement comprehensive water management plans.
* Lead their communities towards a future of water security and resilience.

**Join us for this empowering workshop and become a champion for sustainable water in your community!**