

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

# Water Technology Clusters as Hubs of Innovation

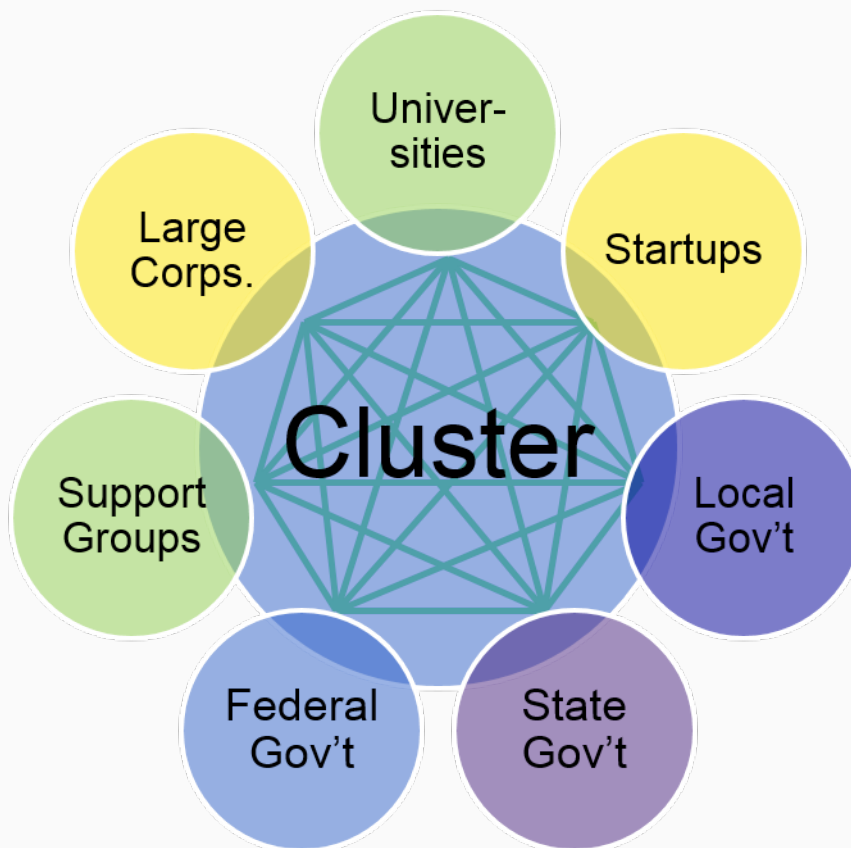


**Sally C. Gutierrez, Director**  
Environmental Technology Innovation Clusters Program  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Cincinnati, Ohio, U.S.A.



# The Cluster Concept

Clusters are **dense, regional networks** of companies and other groups in the same industry.

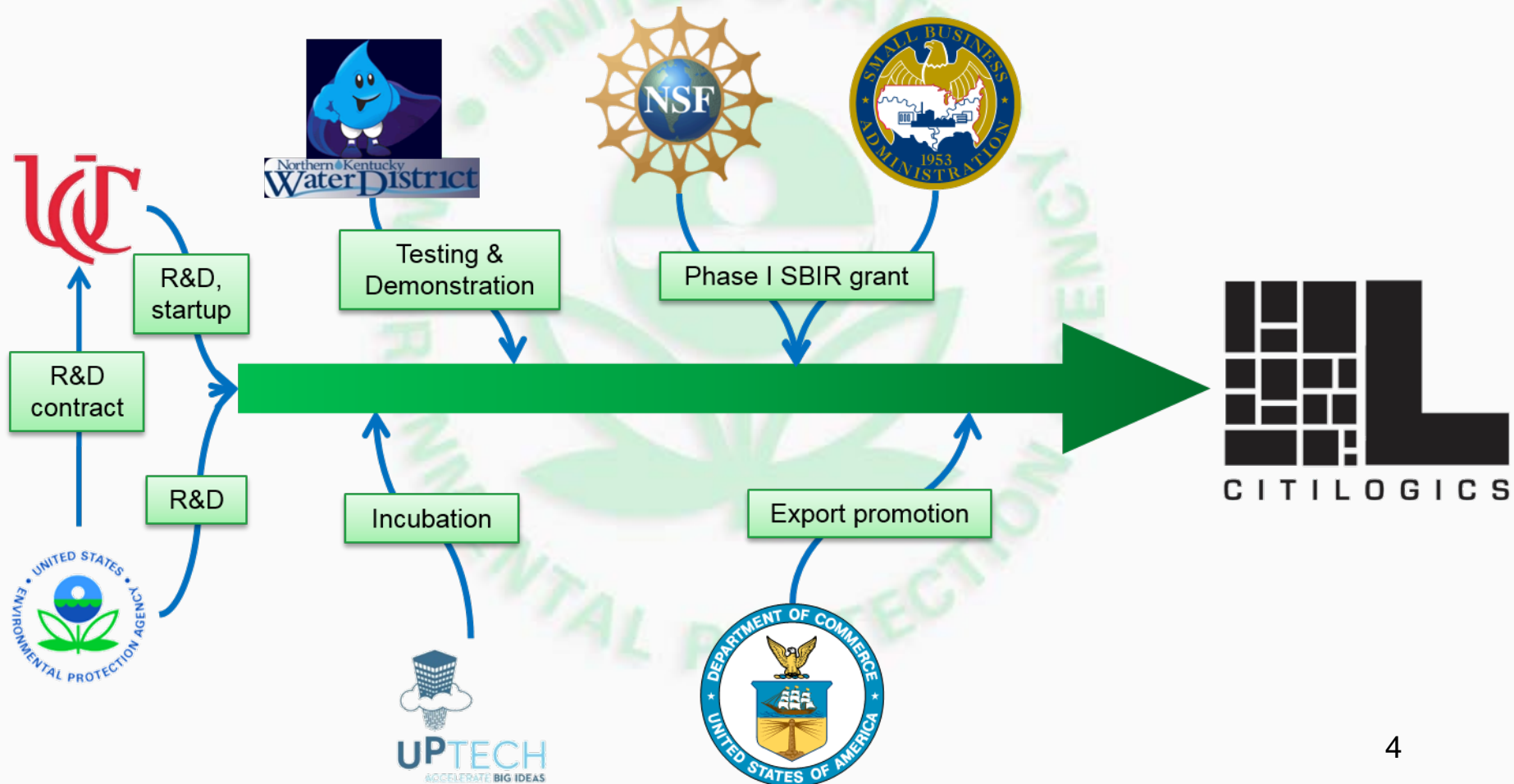




# Do Clusters Matter?

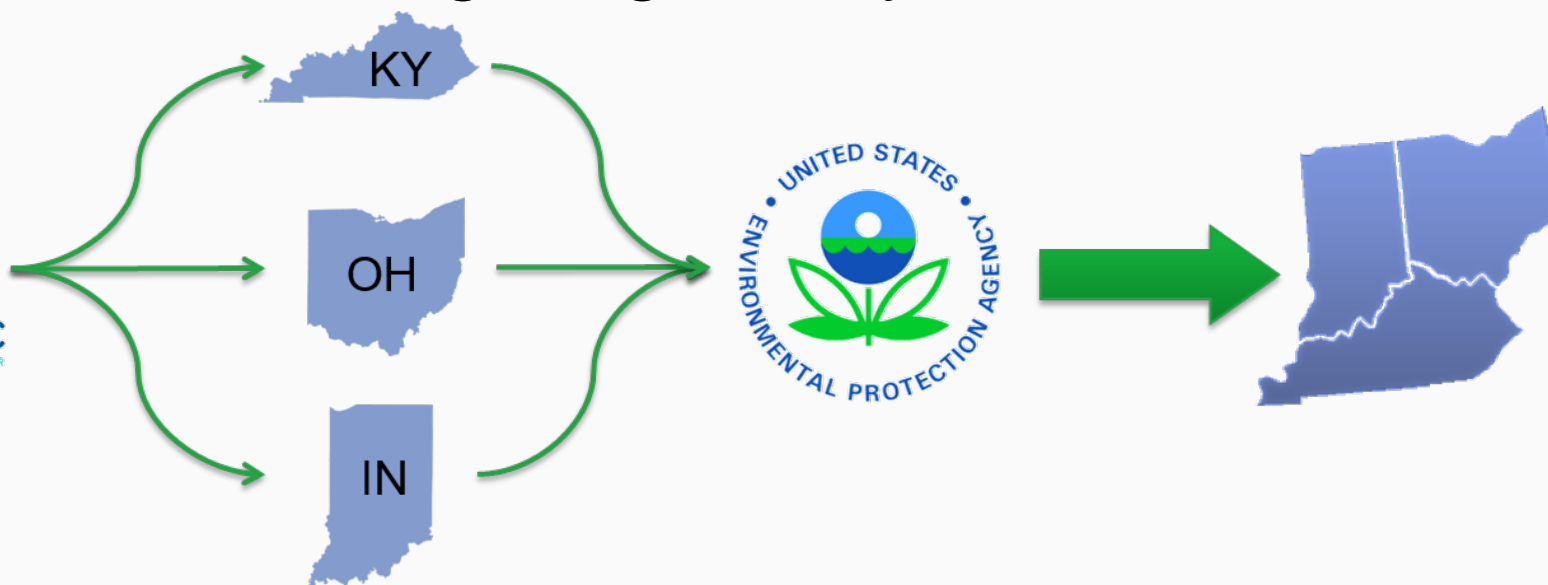
- **Clusters contribute to the growth of *existing* industries**
  - Industries participating in a strong cluster register higher growth of wages and innovation (as well as higher employment growth)
- **Clusters contribute to the creation of *new* industries**
  - New industries are more likely to emerge if they can integrate into an existing cluster, or if related or neighboring clusters are strong
- **Strong clusters contribute to the *overall growth* of the region**
  - Strong traded clusters in a region contribute to the employment growth of other traded and local activities in that region

# Cluster in Action: CitiLogics





# Cluster in Action: Addressing Regulatory Barriers



Confluence  
proposes  
agreement

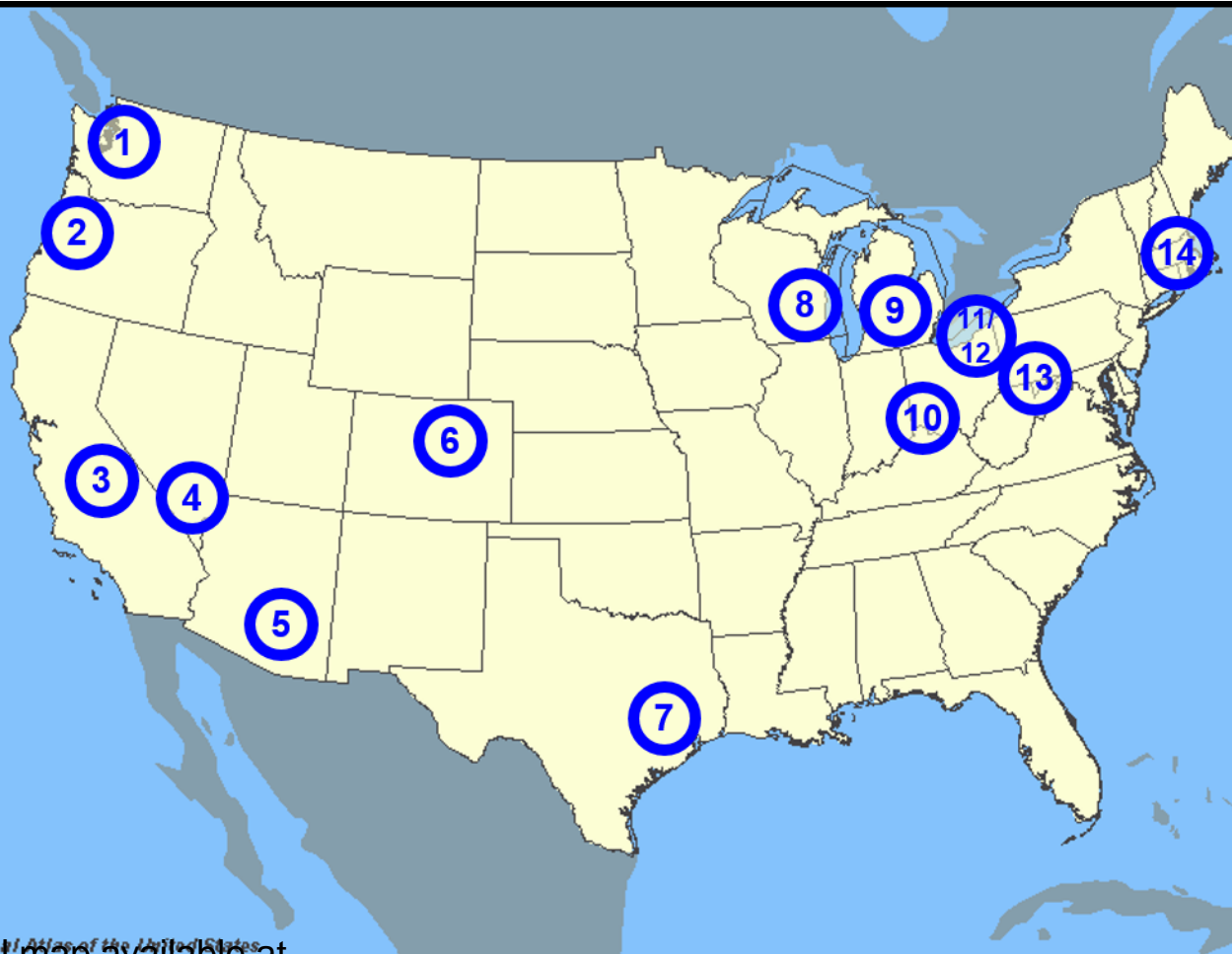
States negotiate  
MoC

EPA and states  
develop protocol  
EPA and local  
utilities test

States adopt  
harmonized approval,  
potentially fast-tracking  
permitting



# Locations of U.S. Water Clusters



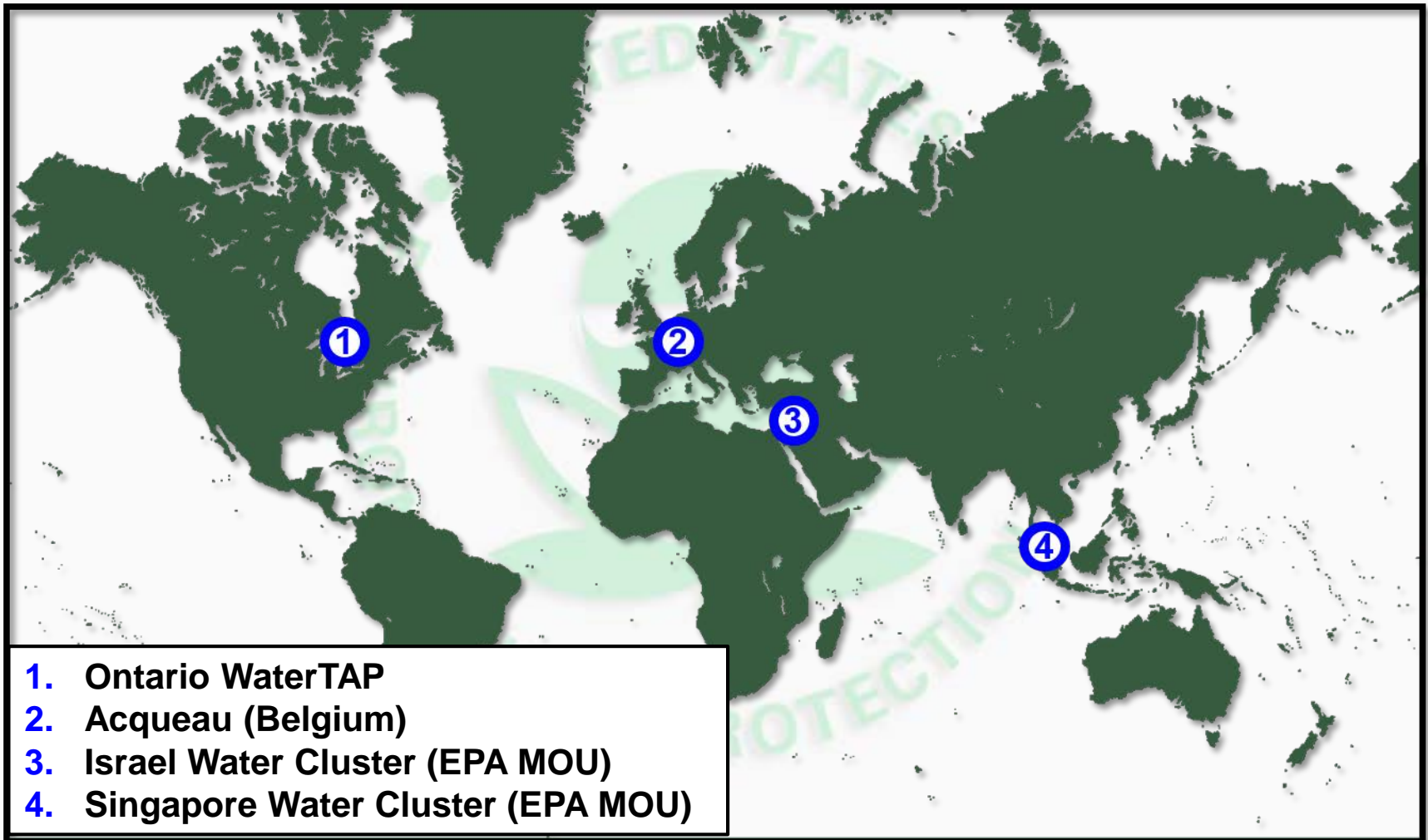
1. **Clean Urban Water Technology Zone** (Tacoma, WA)
2. **Oregon Water Cluster**
3. **The BlueTechValley** (Central and San Joaquin Valleys, CA)
4. **Las Vegas Cluster Effort** (Nevada)
5. **Southwest Water Technology Cluster** (Tucson, Arizona)
6. **Colorado Water Innovation Cluster** (Fort Collins, CO)
7. **Surge Accelerator** (Houston, TX)
8. **The Water Council** (Milwaukee, WI)
9. **Michigan Water Technology Initiative**
10. **Confluence WTIC** (SW Ohio/N Kentucky/SE Indiana)
11. **Cleveland Water Cluster** (NE Ohio)
12. **Akron Global Water Alliance** (Akron, OH)
13. **Water Economy Network** (Pittsburgh, PA)
14. **New England Water Innovation Network** (Massachusetts)

Full map available at

[www2.epa.gov/clusters-program/clusters-map](http://www2.epa.gov/clusters-program/clusters-map).

This map is not intended to be comprehensive, and may not include some emerging water clusters.

# International Water Clusters

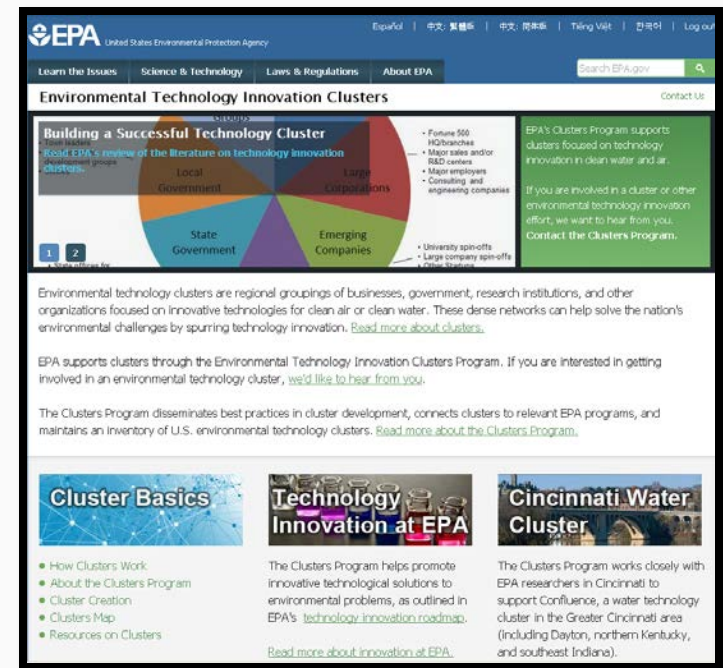






# Clusters Program Support Activities

- Advises on best practices
- Maintains inventory of water clusters
- Works to convene water cluster leaders



[www2.epa.gov/clusters-program](http://www2.epa.gov/clusters-program)