Arizona to Get $28M+ for Lead Pipe Replacement

Millions of federal taxpayer dollars will be headed toward Arizona for getting rid of lead pipes. $28.65 million from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is intended to help "identify and replace" the pipes in the state, as the Environmental Protection Agency considers any quantity of lead in water people drink to be potentially dangerous, *The Center Square* reports.

"Resources for lead service line replacement are already being used in large and small communities across the state," Chuck Podolak, director of the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona said in a statement last week.

"We are grateful for the continued infusion of critical funding and the partnerships it has facilitated between WIFA and Arizona's Department of Environmental Quality, which is utilizing funds to assist small water systems in identifying where harmful lead service lines might exist in their communities," Podolak added.

A news release from the EPA said that the goal is to swap out 1.7 million lead pipes throughout the United States. Read more.

Arizona Awards Apprenticeship Initiative Grants to Expand the Construction Workforce

Governor Hobbs recently announced that more than $650,000 in grant awards were awarded to five construction and trades registered apprenticeship programs. This round is the first phase of the governor's BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative to advance the state's skilled construction workforce. The initiative aims to double the number of construction trades registered apprentices by 2026 to support Arizona's growing economy, according to a news release.

"From electricians to heavy equipment operators and more, Arizona needs trades and craftspeople to support our thriving economy," said Governor Katie Hobbs. "At the same time, we are opening paths to opportunity for workers in every corner of
our state by eliminating barriers to effective training programs. With this initial investment and future investments, we expect to meet the demands of new industries and give every Arizonan a chance at a good-paying job."

"These grants and partnerships with high quality registered apprenticeship programs will offer financial assistance for first-year tuition, books and more for roughly 250 new apprentices in the next year who will be earning while learning in a high growth and well paying job in the building trades," said Office of Economic Opportunity CEO Carlos Contreras, the state agency leading the implementation of BuildItAZ.

The BuildItAZ Apprenticeship Initiative first round grantees are the Arizona Building Trades and Council, the Phoenix Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program, Rummel Construction, the Laborers Training and Retraining Trust of Arizona, and the Tucson Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Program.

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**State Licensing Board Meeting**

The Arizona State Board of Technical Registration will hold its next meeting on **Tuesday, May 21** (9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.). Access meeting information [here](#).

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Get Involved! NSPE Seeks Volunteers for 2024-25 Committees

NSPE’s passionate and dedicated committee volunteers are essential to our mission. *Why serve?* In addition to giving back to the professional engineering community, NSPE volunteers form strong connections with committee colleagues, learn new skills, enjoy networking with leaders or hone their own leadership skills.

**Learn more and apply to NSPE’s 2024-25 Committees by June 3. (You must log-in with your NSPE credentials to submit an application.)**

If you do not see an opportunity that interests you in the link above, check out *Get Involved* throughout the year to learn more about other areas of engagement, including short-term projects.

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**NSPECon24 Keynote Speakers**
NSPECon24 (Raleigh, North Carolina, August 7-9), the prime national event for professional engineers, will feature keynote speakers to provide inspiration and guidance to help elevate your career in addition to putting a spotlight on emerging issues within the industry. **Early-bird registration rates are available until June 27.** Access registration information and rates [here](#).
Paul Doherty, chairman and CEO of The Digit Group, will present the session “Unlocking the Metaverse: AI, Engineering the Future of Our Industry” to provide insight on emerging technologies and explore real-world solutions and projects that are challenging our industry.

Dan Heath, author and senior fellow, The Center for the Advancement of Social Entrepreneurship (CASE), Duke University, will present the session “RESET: How to Change What’s Not Working” to explore a framework for getting unstuck and making the changes that matter.

Access the preliminary NSPECon24 program for more details on the keynote speakers and session topics.

NSPECon24 also offers a variety of sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities to put your company or organization in front of senior executives and other decision-makers from across the industry. A special exhibitor discount is being offered to Research Triangle-based businesses.

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Inaugural Leadership Institute for Women PEs
NSPE’s Women Leadership Program is sponsoring the Leadership Institute for Women Professional Engineers, a three-day program designed to support mid-career women PEs in confidently navigating their career path and leveraging their leadership skills.

The institute agenda is interwoven into the NSPECOn24 program with participants attending pre-conference opening sessions on Wednesday, August 7, and sessions the mornings of Thursday, August 8 and Friday, August 9, in Raleigh, North Carolina. Attendees must register for NSPECOn24 to attend the institute.

Access more information and register.