

Establishing the policies that assure the effective provision of safe and environmentally sound drinking water and wastewater services cannot be done without addressing the inevitable tensions that arise when society must balance complicated and occasionally competing core objectives. Science is critical in helping communities better understand and improve these services, yet science alone will never address the financial limitations facing many communities.

The Environmental Finance Center at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill focuses on how communities pay for their environmental projects, programs and services. The communities we work with function in a policy environment where science often takes a back seat to local political and financial pressures. It is my hope, by encouraging idea exchange between leading scientists and policy professionals, this event provided insight and generated new visions for addressing the linkages connecting—and boundaries separating—the science and policy of water.

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