



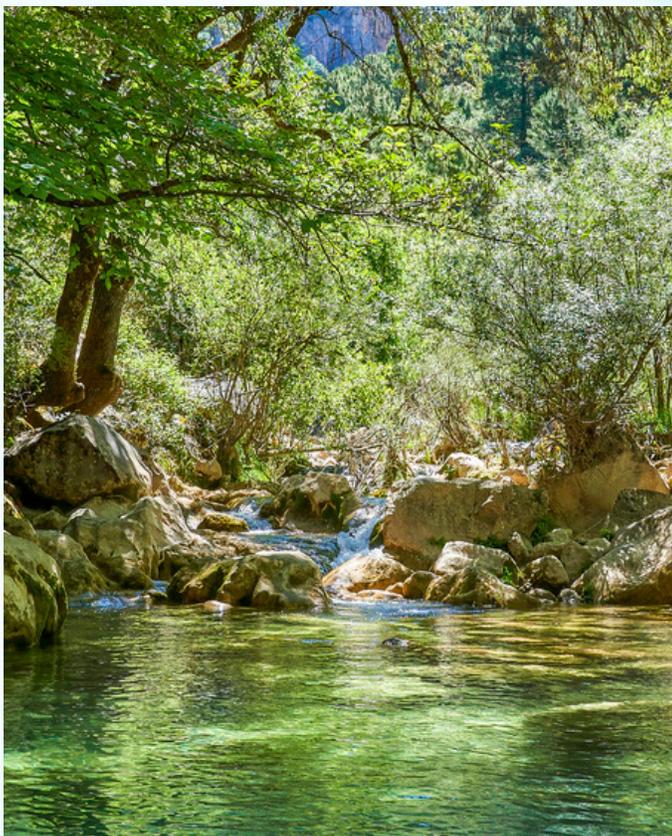
# WASCO

WATER & SEWERAGE COMPANY, INC.

## **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE TOGETHER**

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PROTECTING SAINT LUCIA'S WATER SUPPLY -  
A CALL TO ACTION FOR THE **TOURISM SECTOR**



## Understanding Saint Lucia's Water Management System

### The Water Resources Management Agency (WRMA)

The WRMA is responsible for managing and protecting Saint Lucia's water resources. Our island relies entirely on rainfall for its water supply, drawn from rivers, streams, and springs. Climate change is affecting our water supply in two major ways:

- **Reduced rainfall** which contributes to longer droughts.
- **Intensified storms** result in high turbidity and silting, disrupting the availability of water.

The WRMA collaborates closely with WASCO to ensure the effective management, supply, and distribution of Saint Lucia's water resources.



## The Importance of Water Security in Saint Lucia

As climate change continues to affect Saint Lucia, our island faces significant water management challenges, as a result of prolonged dry spells and intense storms. These changes pose serious risks to the tourism industry impacting service continuity, guest satisfaction, and operational efficiency. **WASCO** encourages the tourism sector, including hotels, guest houses, restaurants, and other hospitality businesses, to take proactive steps in adapting to these challenges.

## WASCO's Role in Water Management

WASCO is committed to ensuring a consistent supply of potable water for all Saint Lucians. We collect, treat, and distribute water across the island, adhering to World Health Organization (WHO) standards.

### WASCO's Climate Change Adaptation Initiatives:

- Investing in resilient infrastructure to improve water supply and distribution.
- Fixing leaks and reducing water losses.
- Upgrading treatment plants and storage systems.
- Promoting water conservation practices.
- Training staff on climate change awareness and emergency response.
- Partnering with communities and organizations to protect watersheds and restore ecosystems.

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## Key Adaptation Measures for the Tourism Sector

### 1. Increased Water Storage to Enhance Your Business Resilience

#### Enhance Your Resilience

WASCO recommends increasing your water storage capacity to last at least 5 days. This measure enhances your ability to provide uninterrupted services during water shortages, ensuring that guest satisfaction and business continuity are not compromised. By investing in additional storage, you can secure a reliable water supply even during disruptions.

#### Key Benefits:

- Uninterrupted operations during water shortages.
- Increased guest and customer satisfaction.
- Reduced stress during dry periods.

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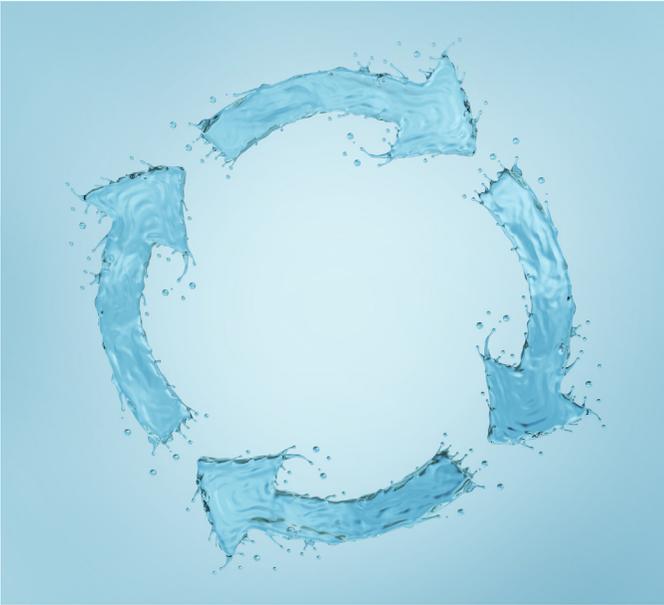
### 2. Utilize Alternative Water Sources

#### Diversify Your Water Supply

Consider implementing alternative water sources such as rainwater harvesting, desalination plants, or groundwater extraction, as feasible. These methods reduce your reliance on Saint Lucia's limited freshwater resources and ensure a dependable supply for your operations.

#### Key Benefits:

- Reduces operational risks
- Supports sustainability efforts
- Ensures reliable access to water during droughts



### 3. Water Conservation Measures

#### Reuse and Recycle Water

Water conservation is crucial. Implement greywater reuse and other water recycling methods to reduce your dependence on limited freshwater. Reusing water not only conserves resources but also lowers water bills and demonstrates your commitment to sustainable practices.

#### Key Benefits:

- Conserves precious freshwater resources.
- Lowers operational costs.
- Strengthens your reputation as a sustainable business.

### 4. Install Water-Efficient Appliances

#### Modernize and Save

Gradually shift towards water-efficient appliances, faucets, and toilets. These technologies minimize water usage, reduce your operational costs, and contribute to the protection of Saint Lucia's water resources. Upgrading appliances can significantly lower water consumption without compromising service quality.

#### Key Benefits:

- Reduces water consumption and operational costs.
- Supports environmental conservation efforts.
- Shows your business's commitment to sustainability.

### 5. Implementing Climate Change Policies

#### Modernize and Save

WASCO strongly encourages tourism businesses to adopt climate change adaptation policies. By integrating water conservation and resource management into your operational guidelines, you will not only adapt to changing environmental conditions but also improve your business's sustainability and reputation for environmental responsibility.

#### Key Benefits:

- Adapts to evolving environmental challenges.
- Enhances sustainability and long-term business success.
- Builds your reputation for environmental responsibility.



## Overcoming Barriers to Adaptation

### 1. Cost Concerns

#### Investing in Resilience Pays Off

While initial investments in increased water storage, alternative water sources, and water-efficient appliances may seem high, the long-term savings and operational benefits far outweigh the costs. Look for available grants, incentives, and financing options to support your investment in these critical adaptation measures e.g. Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund., Climate Investment Funds, Global Environment Facility, Caribbean Development Bank, Climate Technology Centre and Network among others.

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### 2. Lack of Information and Expertise

#### Access Resources and Training

Seek support from organizations like the Saint Lucia Hospitality and Tourism Association (SLHTA), and the Department of Sustainable Development and the Water Resource Management Agency (WRMA), who may be able to provide technical assistance to help you implement climate adaptation measures effectively. Additionally, stay informed about the latest technological advancements in water management, such as smart irrigation systems and advanced water recycling techniques.

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### 3. Resistance to Change

#### Focus on the Long-Term Benefits

It can be difficult to embrace change, but the long-term benefits of implementing climate change adaptation measures are clear. From cost savings to improved customer satisfaction, these changes can enhance your business's resilience and reputation. Learn from other businesses that have successfully implemented these practices.



## **Together, We Can Build a Resilient Water Future for Saint Lucia!**

The tourism industry plays a critical role in Saint Lucia's journey towards water security. By taking these proactive steps, you can protect your business, support our island's sustainability efforts, and ensure the availability of water for future generations. Let's work together to make a positive impact on Saint Lucia's water resources.



# WASCO

WATER & SEWERAGE COMPANY, INC.

**SECURE OUR WATER, SECURE OUR FUTURE**

Potéjé dlo nou, potéjé sé tan-an ki ka vini

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