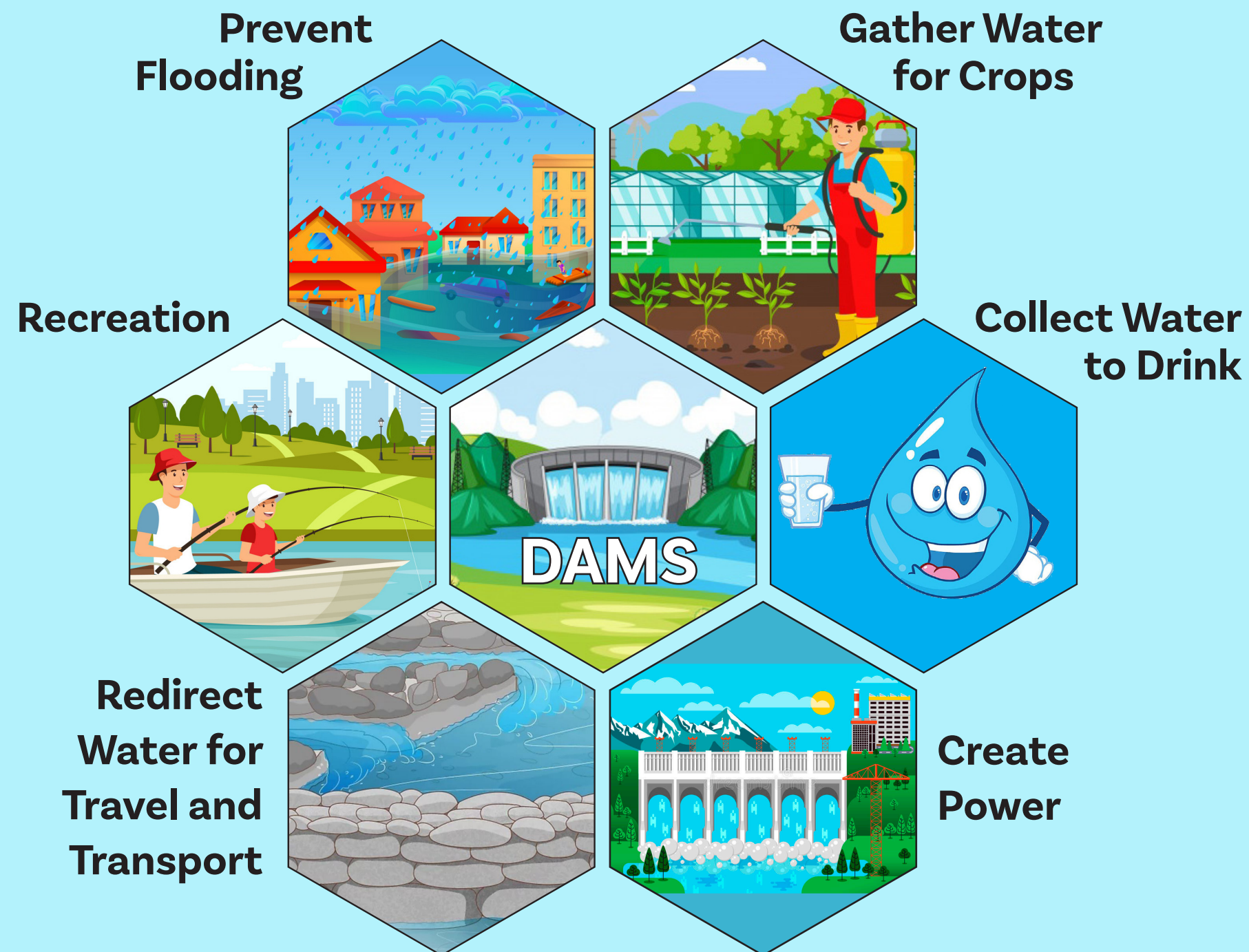


Learning About Dams



Humans have been making dams for more than 900 years. We do this to stop or control the flow of water for many reasons:



At Fuss & O'Neill, we have a group of engineers and scientists that fix dams in need of repair, remove dams, and sometimes build dams.

Why would someone remove a dam?

Phil Forzley, PE, who has worked on dams throughout New England, says:

The Earth and the needs and wants of its inhabitants are constantly changing. Sometimes dams are no longer needed because their intended use, like generating power or driving mechanical equipment, is obsolete. Other times the cost of plugging a leak or repairing damage from a storm, or just plain old age, is not worth the benefit. From an ecological standpoint, dams can disconnect fish and wildlife corridors and be detrimental in many other ways. On the recreational side, dams interrupt canoe, kayak, and other passive recreation corridors. In Connecticut, we removed a dam because it was very old and falling apart. When we decided to remove it, we made it safer for people and property, decreased the likelihood that buildings on the river would flood, allowed the town to be able to respond better and adapt to storms, and we strengthened the natural ecosystem because fish habitats were reconnected after being apart for more than 100 years.

To watch a time-lapsed video of the removal of this dam

[click here](#)