

FAQs: 2022 Water Efficiency Plan

What is a water efficiency plan?

A Municipal Water Efficiency Plan is a Colorado regulatory requirement (HB 04-1365) to “enhance the efficiency with which water is used to meet end uses, with the objective of making water available for all beneficial uses in Colorado.” This seven-year plan is our third submission to the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB).

What is our savings goal for this plan and why?

Saving water through demand reductions stretches our supplies. Our 2022 WEP is designed to reduce residential and systemwide use by 2.5% between now and 2030. The identified programs could provide an estimated 2,191 acre-feet of water savings by 2030.

QUESTIONS?

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What are the objectives of this plan?

Address the most significant areas of inefficiency and maximize the value of landscape health:

1. Achieve widespread efficiency in residential indoor use.
2. Meet increased need for resilient landscapes through programs that promote 12-16 inches of irrigation per season (all-turf is 24 inches).
3. Support updates to the City’s Commercial Landscape Code and Policy Manual.
4. Implement water loss control measures to optimize our water system operations.
5. Educate customers on personalized water use goals which reflect their efficient use and needs for home, business and landscape.

How will the savings be obtained?

Program Category	2030 Cumulative Savings (acre-feet)
Foundational Activities (e.g., rates and water loss control)	270
Targeted Technical Assistance and Incentives (e.g., rebates and audits)	910
Ordinances and Regulation (e.g., water-wise rules)	590
Educational Activities (e.g., classes and demonstrations)	421
2022 WEP Savings Target	2,191

Why are these savings programs important?

Colorado and Colorado Springs face challenges to our supplies, from long-term drought across the Colorado River Basin and the southwestern United States to climate change and accelerated growth.

Water connects us all and our water resources also serve a larger community across Colorado and the west. For example, 60-70% of our water comes from Colorado River Basin sources. We all need to make careful water use decisions each day to gain the most beneficial outcomes.

Being intentional with our water use means we can manage through climate variability while supporting continued growth, economic vitality, and a high quality of life for our community.

How are these goals tied to our long-term planning efforts?

To reach the goal of 11,000 – 13,000 acre-feet of water savings defined in our long-range plan (the Integrated Water Resource Plan) we must continue to address inefficient use and reduce demands through comprehensive conservation programming.

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