

GROWING WATER SMART: ARIZONA

RESILIENT COMMUNITIES AND WATERSHEDS

Jeremy Stapleton

Let's Talk About Water and Land

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet, where and how we build has impacts on the quantity and quality of water that nourishes our ecosystems and replenishes our supplies.

The Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy are seeking communities to participate in Growing Water Smart, our training and assistance program to better integrate water and land use planning.

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Date: February 5–7, 2020

Deadline: August 2, 2019



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Why Integrate Water and Land Planning?

The impacts of a hotter and drier climate in Arizona have created significant uncertainty about water availability in the coming decades. Falling levels in the Colorado River reservoirs and groundwater overdraft conditions present challenges to balancing water needs with available water supplies requiring local jurisdictions to reevaluate water issues and to assume new leadership roles.

City and town officials, water providers and planners can increase sustainability and create water smart communities even as populations grow. The right tools, knowledge and plans make a big difference.

How We Can Help

The Growing Water Smart Workshop brings people making water and land use decisions in your community together as a team to collaborate on long-term water security. Peers and experts will introduce you to a range of public engagement, planning, communication and policy implementation tools to ensure your team can realize its water supply efficiency, watershed health and community resilience goals. **Most costs of attending are covered.**

Participants in this program gain:

- **Foresight.** A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at the state and local level.
- **Adaptability.** The strategies and tools to integrate water and land use planning to better adapt to change and uncertainty.
- **Commitment.** Decision makers from multiple disciplines, departments, agencies and organizations commit to common goals.
- **Clarity.** The ability to communicate why your goals are needed and gain the support you need to succeed.
- **A path forward.** An action plan tailored to your community's needs.



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Training at a Glance

The Growing Water Smart Workshop provides time and space for the exchange of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned. Participating teams will spend much of their time defining their water resilience goals and a path to attain them.

Day 1 Become familiar with the context for linking water and land use, and begin collaborative thinking.

Day 2 Start planning strategically as a team using the Growing Water Smart framework to ensure that the water needs of Arizona's communities are met.

Day 3 Develop an action plan for your community and set a date to reconvene your team.

Participating communities will be eligible for technical assistance to help you realize your water and land use goals.

The workshop typically begins mid-afternoon on the first day and ends mid-afternoon on the third day.

How to Attend

To participate in our Growing Water Smart program, please submit a team roster of 5 - 7 of your community's water and land use decision makers and answers to the following questions in .doc or .pdf format to climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org

Teams should include land use planners, water managers, elected and appointed officials and others needed to secure your community's water future.

Please limit responses to 250 words per question.

1. Water Awareness: Describe your understanding of current and forecasted water supply and demand for your community. How well understood and accepted are these figures by decision-makers and the community?

2. Planning and Policy: What plans, policies, and programs are in place in your community that address water supply efficiency and conservation? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are/ will you be starting that are related to water and land use planning integration?



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3. **Community Readiness:** What is the level of cooperation or collaboration among the entities responsible for water planning and land use planning in your community? Describe any opportunities or challenges you might want to address in this workshop.

4. **Desired Outcomes:** How does your community believe it will benefit from better integrating water and land use planning? Be as specific as possible.

Deadline

Submit your application by **August 2, 2019**.

Contact Information

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Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy's Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy.

Support the Sonoran Institute

Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America. Learn more about how you can help at SonoranInstitute.org/donate.

About the Lincoln Institute

The Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is an independent, nonpartisan organization whose mission is to help solve global economic, social, and environmental challenges to improve quality of life through creative approaches to the use, taxation, and stewardship of land.

About the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them.

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