



COLORADO GROWING WATER SMART

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

May 2021 Workshop

The Land Use and Water Challenge

Colorado is navigating significant uncertainty around water availability, requiring local jurisdictions to fundamentally rethink water use and to assume new leadership roles.

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet the way we build directly impacts our water supply and demand.

Communities can grow water smart communities by collaborating to identify and implement strategies that resolve their water resource challenges.



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Growing Water Smart Workshops Can Help

This workshop brings water and land use decision-makers in your community together as a team to collaborate on long-term water security. Gain a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy tools to ensure your team can realize its water conservation, watershed health, and community resilience goals.

Location: Online Workshop

Date: 3–4 days in May, 2021

Costs: No cost to all accepted teams

Eligibility: Colorado counties and municipalities

Communities participating in this program gain:

Insight. A better understanding of how land use and climatic trends impact water supply and demand at local, state, and basin levels.

Flexibility. The strategies and tools to integrate water and land use planning to better adapt to change and uncertainty.

Engagement. Decision makers from multiple disciplines, departments, agencies, and organizations agree to common goals around water.

Clarity. Clear and concise language to communicate critical community goals around water to gain community and decision maker support.

Collaboration. Regional professional relationships with peers.

A path forward. An action plan tailored to your community's needs.

“Colorado Growing Water Smart helped Fort Collins better collaborate with all of our water providers to plan for growth so that we consider cost and availability of water.”

Donnie Dustin | City of Fort Collins



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support from LightHawk

Program at a Glance

The Growing Water Smart workshop, adapted to a virtual platform, offers your team the time to focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing your community's future growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

Team-Oriented Work Sessions: Teams to assess community data, trends, and policies; develop succinct messaging around water; identify strategies to become water resilient; and develop an action plan to implement these strategies. Sessions are facilitated by trained water and planning professionals and utilize interactive technology to guide teams through discussions.

Learning Best Practices: Live presentations and on-demand videos provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, and reuse into future development.

Peer-to-Peer Networking: Participants meet and exchange ideas with peers from other jurisdictions and past workshop participants.

Technical Assistance: Upon workshop completion, teams are eligible to apply for follow-up technical assistance to further their water and land use integration work. Previous projects have included:

- Land use code audits and policy recommendations
- Guidance for general plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Strategic communication plans and messaging

“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Now our local governments and service providers are using a common set of data and growth projections in our planning efforts. We expect this collaboration will expand to other issues in our community.”

James Dickoff | Town of Pagosa Springs



Jeremy Stapleton



Jeremy Stapleton



Amy McCoy, with Martin & McCoy LLC



Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support by LightHawk

Who Can Apply

Interdisciplinary teams from counties and municipalities across Colorado are encouraged to apply.

This workshop is designed to build and foster a collaborative team committed to taking local action. Applicants build a team of five to seven that includes individuals with a diversity of knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure their community's water future and implement the developed action plan:

- Elected and appointed officials*
- Current and long range land use planners*
- Water resource managers*
- Economic development leaders
- Sustainability and resilience officers
- Parks and public works staff
- Representatives of regional planning organizations
- Local non-profits organizational representatives
- Community task force members
- Consultants contributing to your current water and land use efforts

** Denotes required representative*

If this is a multi-jurisdictional team, representatives from each community should be on the team and in pursuit of a common water goal.

How to Apply

Identify a lead contact person and submit names, positions, and email addresses for all team members and answers to the following four questions in .doc or .pdf format to climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org

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. Describe your biggest water resource challenges as you presently see them. How well do decision-makers and the community understand and accept this information?

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

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 want to address during 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.



Jeremy Stapleton



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Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

- Team composition
- Ability to demonstrate local commitment toward addressing water sustainability
- Understanding of projected growth and uncertainty around meeting future water demand
- Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management

Deadline

Submit your application by **February 15, 2021**.

Contact Information

We are here to help! If you are interested in applying or have questions about the program, please contact:

Waverly Klaw, AICP
Director, Resilient Communities and Watersheds
Sonoran Institute
climateresilience@sonoraninstitute.org

Visit GrowingWaterSmart.org for more information.

Funding for Growing Water Smart is provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Gates Family Foundation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, and Northern Water. Sponsorship opportunities are available in Colorado, Arizona and California.

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About the Babbitt Center

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to meet the current and future water needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment.

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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BABBITT CENTER
FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



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