

# ARIZONA GROWING WATER SMART

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

March 2023 Workshop

## The Land Use and Water Challenge

Arizona 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” by collaborating to identify and implement strategies that resolve their water resource challenges.



## Growing Water Smart Workshops

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:** Phoenix, AZ

**Date:** March 6 – 8, 2023

**Eligibility:** Arizona counties and municipalities

**Costs:** The workshop is free. Participants cover their own travel. Some meals & lodging are provided.

Participants 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 commit 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.

*“Arizona Growing Water Smart was a fantastic experience. Hearing from other cities reinforced our need for action: integrating land and water is a real issue and it’s universal!”*

Lacey James

Former Water Resources & Regulatory Manager, City of Avondale





Jeremy Stapleton, Sonoran Institute



Diego Trejo, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

## Program at a Glance

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

**Team-Oriented Work Sessions:** Teams 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 who guide teams through strategic discussions.

**Learning Best Practices:** Presentations provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and watershed protection into existing and future development.

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

## Follow up Funding

Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in technical assistance funding to help carry out a water and land use integration strategy identified in the team's action plan. Previous projects have included:

- Land use code audits and policy recommendations
- The inclusion of water in general plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Metrics to measure water and land use integration
- Turf removal and low water use demonstration gardens

*“Our expectations were that we would come out of the Arizona Growing Water Smart workshop with a plan that we can incorporate into our General Plan update. We have done exactly that. It is key to our City's health and growth!”*

**Craig McFarland**  
Mayor, City of Casa Grande







Diego Trejo, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



J. Emanuel Stuart

## Eligibility and Team Composition

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

This workshop is designed to build and foster inter-disciplinary teams committed to taking collaborative action. Applicants build a team of five to seven individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure their community's water future and implement the developed action plan. Team composition varies to reflect the needs of each community, and often includes:

- 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-profit organizational representatives
- Community task force members
- Consultants contributing to your current water and land use efforts

\* Denotes required representative

Multi-jurisdictional or regional teams may also apply. One or more representatives from each local government should be represented, and the team should be in pursuit of a common water goal.

## How to Apply

To participate in the Growing Water Smart program, please submit answers to the following five questions in .doc or .pdf format to [growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org).

Please limit responses to between 250–500 words per question.

- 1. Team Composition:** Provide the names, titles, organizational affiliation, and email addresses of your 5-7 team members. Please identify who will serve as the team leader for pre-workshop communication.
- 2. Water Awareness:** Describe your community's water challenges, particularly around balancing water supply and demand, but also around stormwater management, integrated water resource management, and watershed health, as applicable. How well do decision-makers and the community understand and prioritize these challenges?
- 3. Planning and Policy:** What plans, policies, and programs are currently in place in your community that address water in new and existing development? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are in progress related to water and land use planning integration?
- 4. Community Readiness:** How are your land use planners and water resource managers currently collaborating around water and land use? Please describe any opportunities or challenges that you want to address during this workshop.
- 5. Desired Outcomes:** What does your community hope to achieve from participation in the Growing Water Smart workshop? How does your community believe it will benefit from better integration of water and land use planning? Be as specific as possible.



Jeremy Stapleton, Sonoran Institute



Amanda Smith, Sonoran Institute

## Selection Criteria

Teams will be selected based on:

- Team composition that includes required representatives.
- Demonstrated local commitment toward addressing water sustainability.
- Severity of need around current and projected water conditions.
- Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

## Deadline

Submit your application by **December 12, 2022**.

## 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  
[growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org](mailto:growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org)

Visit [growingwatersmart.org](http://growingwatersmart.org) for more information.

Growing Water Smart is offered in partnership with the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy. Sponsorship opportunities are available. This workshop is offered in Arizona, Colorado and California.

## 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](http://SonoranInstitute.org/donate).

## 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.

## Connect With Us

Go to [SonoranInstitute.org](http://SonoranInstitute.org) to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on Social Media:



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*A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*



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