



SAN LUIS VALLEY GROWING WATER SMART

WORKSHOP INVITATION

Round 7, June 2022

The Land and Water Challenge in the San Luis Valley

The Rio Grande Basin faces significant water challenges, including diminishing water supplies, overuse of groundwater, and the threat of water exportation. While much of the water is used for agriculture, to achieve a balance between overall supply and demand, all sectors—municipal, commercial, and industrial—will need to work together to manage water carefully and minimize competition.

Water resource managers and local governments can be part of the solution by reducing water demand and growing in ways that also protect the health and function of rivers, streams, and wetlands. The region's communities, economy, and environment depend on it.



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The Growing Water Smart Workshop

The Growing Water Smart workshop brings key decisionmakers on water and land use planning in your community and region together to collaborate on approaches to sustainable water use. The workshop utilizes a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy implementation tools to help the San Luis Valley realize its water efficiency, watershed health, and water resilience goals.

The Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, and partner the Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center at Adams State University, are seeking teams to participate in the San Luis Valley Growing Water Smart training and assistance program.

Location: Adams State University, Alamosa, Colorado

Date: June 8-10, 2022

Costs: No cost to participants

Eligibility: Participate in a team representing an area in the San Luis Valley

Open Invitation: Briefing on the current water/land use nexus in the valley

We invite all interested elected officials and local government, district, and NGO staff to attend a virtual local policy briefing via zoom on the current conditions and opportunities to integrate water challenges into land use plans, policies, and approaches. Policy briefings will be offered on April 11 and 15, and a recording will be available.

To learn more and sign up, please go to: resilientwest.org/2022/SLV



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Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support by LightHawk

Workshop 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 the San Luis Valley. The program is comprised of the following elements:

Learning Best Practices Educational materials and trainings provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, and reuse into future development.

Team-Oriented Work Sessions Explore your region’s water challenges with your team and how they can be alleviated through land use policies and municipal and industrial water use efficiencies.

Peer Networking Exchange ideas and explore possible collaborations with peers in neighboring communities.

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 workshop team’s action plan.

Previous projects have included:

- Landscaping and code audits
- Guidance on general plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement
- Strategic communication plan and messaging
- Policy and program recommendations

What project would help your community manage your water more effectively for the future?

“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



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Amy McCoy, with Martin & McCoy LLC

Rio de la Vista

“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Following the workshop, our local governments and service providers are seeking to use 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

Workshop Team Formation

We seek to bring together up to six workshop teams of five to seven people each, from counties, municipalities, districts, and NGOs in the San Luis Valley. These teams will explore and develop new and improved ways to address water challenges and needs.

Teams include those who can offer background, expertise, or passion regarding the area’s:

- Long-range community plans, land use codes, and development review processes
- Management of water resources
- Ecosystem resilience
- Economic development
- Community leadership

Members could be:

- Elected and appointed officials
- Long range and land use planners
- Water utility and water resource managers
- Economic development managers
- Parks and Public Works staff
- Local non-profits and NGOs
- Community taskforce representatives

How to Participate

The San Luis Valley Growing Water Smart workshop is available to community-based participants at no cost. With the help of local Advisory Committee, we are establishing teams of participants from across the six-county region.

If you are interested in participating, please contact us at growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org and we’ll connect you with the Team Leader for your area of the San Luis Valley.

Program Benefits

Insight. A better understanding of how municipal water demand and land use and growth planning can contribute to solutions to regional can influence regional water challenges.

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

Engagement. Decision makers from various disciplines, departments, and organizations establish shared goals and collaborative programs.

Clarity. The ability to communicate why your goals are needed and gain the support you need to succeed.

Collaboration. Professional relationship-building with peers.

A path forward. An action plan to guide future work.

Follow up support. Financial and technical assistance.



Rio de la Vista



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Workshop Success

Since 2017, Growing Water Smart workshops have served 52 communities across Colorado. Representatives of over 62% of Coloradans have been trained to address water challenges in how their communities live and grow. Join us!

Workshop Support

Funding for Growing Water Smart in the San Luis Valley is provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Gates Family Foundation, and the Trinchera Blanca Foundation.

Connect With Us

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Go to SonoranInstitute.org to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on Social Media:

-  facebook.com/sonoraninstitute
-  [@sonoraninstitute](https://twitter.com/sonoraninstitute)
-  [SonoranInstituteFlix](https://www.youtube.com/SonoranInstituteFlix)
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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 Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

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 Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center

The Salazar Rio Grande del Norte Center's mission is to promote and support innovative stewardship of the Valley's land and water resources, to strengthen connections between the region's natural resources and its diverse cultures and heritage, and to enhance related economic development for the community and career opportunities for Adams State University students.

About the Sonoran Institute

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



A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

