



MEASURING WATER AND LAND USE INTEGRATION

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Summer 2023

"What defines a water-saving community is not always clear, and yet the goal of achieving increased water savings is imperative. Cities and towns need to better understand what is feasible to conserve and for what they should be aiming. This can be achieved in part by identifying targets for achieving savings through...integrating with land use planning...."

- Colorado Water Plan 2023, Agency Action 1.1 "Define, benchmark, and institutionalize water-saving communities.

Now Accepting Applications

The Sonoran Institute invites Colorado communities interested in establishing metrics to benchmark and track the impact of strategies that integrate water and land use to apply to the second round of the Metrics Project.

Applications can be submitted by land use planners, water providers and utilities, or other leaders representing a local government entity. Two neighboring communities or a county-municipality partnership may submit a joint application to participate.

Two applicants will be selected to participate in the 2023-2024 project cycle.

This opportunity operationalizes the guidance found in [Growing Water Smart Metrics: Tracking the Integration of Water and Land Use Planning](#).

Participants will receive twelve months of specialized training and assistance from Sonoran Institute and consulting partner Brendle Group, consisting of:

- Guidance in development of a stakeholder group.
- Four externally facilitated multi-hour sessions with their stakeholder group.
- Technical assistance (up to 70 hours) that can be used for cleaning data and establishing the process for calculating the selected metrics.

Round 2 Schedule

(subject to some variation)

August 2023	Applicant Selection & Notification
Sept. 2023	Kickoff & Stakeholder Team Recruitment
Nov. 2023	Anchor Session
Jan. 2024 – Feb. 2024	Define Session
May 2024	Activate Session
June 2024 - July 2024	Technical Assistance
August 2024	Assess Session & Project Wrap-up

The four metrics stakeholder sessions include:

Anchor: identify the importance of integrated water and land use planning and the envisioned role of metrics to support the integration of water conservation and stewardship into community operations and municipal policies and master plans.

Define: confirm which metrics the community would like to use and establish a tactical plan.

Activate: use the metrics to assess current conditions and explore gaps and opportunities for using metric results to improve the community's planning efforts and outcomes.

Assess: determine opportunities to use the metrics to inform new and ongoing policy and planning efforts and outcomes for the community. Make recommendations for next steps.



Expectations of Participating Entities

- Lead the identification and invitation of individuals to the metrics stakeholder group.
- Actively participate in the 4 stakeholder sessions and conduct preparatory and follow-up tasks between them.
- Have water and land use data available for use in the project.
- Dedicate up to 15 hours per month of staff time for the duration of the project.
- Be motivated to utilize metrics collected through this process to establish water targets and determine additional strategies to reach those targets.

How to Apply

The application webform can be found at resilientwest.org/growing-water-smart/metrics

Application Deadline

August 1st, 2023

Contact Us

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About the Sonoran Institute

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

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.



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