

GROWING WATER SMART: COMMUNITY SELF-ASSESSMENT

Introduction

The very first step in becoming water smart is understanding your current conditions. This self-assessment is designed to guide your community through a data gathering process that will help inform your team's work sessions during the Growing Water Smart Workshop.

The capacity of your community and history of planning will influence the thoroughness of the data available. For the purpose of informing your team's dialogue during the Growing Water Smart Workshop, please collect as much data as possible on your current conditions and share the summary with your team prior to the workshop. Responses to this self-assessment do not need to be comprehensive status reports. Keep responses high level and brief enough to guide your discussions and provide weblink or document and page citations so that you can easily dive deeper, if necessary.

There is not an expectation for you to gather data that you do not have available. In cases of where you do not have information, simply acknowledge what you do not know. Communities with more capacity or a longer history of planning are more likely to have invested resources in studies that provide them a more comprehensive understanding of water resource management.

The self-assessment is organized into four sections.

Section 1 gathers data related to trends that influence your community's water supply and demand, such as growth rates and drought. This information is likely to be found in current plans such as the comprehensive plan, climate adaptation plan, or emergency preparedness plan. If you have no local data, you can find data on trends at the Colorado Basin Roundtable page for your region: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/basin-roundtables/Pages/main.aspx>

Section 2 gathers information that is typically found in water planning documents or water budgets about your water supply and demand. Depending upon the capacity of your community, you may not have all of this information available. Sources of data will likely be the water utilities or water resource managers.

Section 3 gathers information on current water conservation and efficiency efforts included in water and land use policies and plans. Sources of data will likely be the planning department, water utilities or water resource managers.

Section 4 gathers information regarding your community's current policies that are most likely to link water and land use beyond traditional water conservation and efficiency standards including connecting water demand to growth patterns, water quality, and watershed health. The planning department staff or planning commission are the likely sources for this information.

<Name of Community Here>

Part 1: Understanding Trends that Influence Water Supply & Demand

Please enter responses into the brown highlighted boxes.

AREA OF INFLUENCE	TRENDS					
1. What changes or trends has our community experienced that may influence our water supply?						
A. Climate Trends	Trends					
<input type="checkbox"/> Temperature						
<input type="checkbox"/> Precipitation (rain and/or snow)						
<input type="checkbox"/> Drought						
<input type="checkbox"/> Fire						
<input type="checkbox"/> Flood						
B. Is our economy growing, declining or shifting?						
<input type="checkbox"/> Property tax base change from 2000 to current period						
<input type="checkbox"/> Sales tax change from 2000 to current						
<input type="checkbox"/> Largest economic sector changes						
C. What changes in business sectors are we seeing?						
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture uses growing/declining						
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial uses growing/declining						
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial uses growing/declining						
D. What demographic shifts have we seen?						
<input type="checkbox"/> Population growing or declining?						
<input type="checkbox"/> What is our projected population growth rate?						
E. How are we growing?						
<input type="checkbox"/> Number of building permits annually past two decades?						
<input type="checkbox"/> Where is most of the new development located?		Urban		Exurban		Rural
<input type="checkbox"/> What is the most frequent type of development application?		Minor Subdivisions		Major Subdivisions		Planned Developments

Part 2: Our Current Inventory: Water Supply & Demand

WATER SUPPLY AND DEMAND QUESTIONS	RESPONSE	
1. Does your community have a clear understanding of your Organization/County/Municipality water supply and demand balance?	We know our water supply, but not our water demand.	We know both our water supply and demand.
2. Is your water supply and demand balanced?		We have not calculated our current water supply and demand balance.
		Our water budget is currently balanced, but a shortage is projected for the future if trends continue.
		Our water budget is currently balanced and is projected to remain balanced over the next 25 years.
3. What is your total current and projected supply and demand in AF?	Current:	
	Projected (to year):	
4. Do you have a study or plan that summarizes your water supply and/or demand?	Yes	No
<i>Please provide link to the report or study.</i>		
5. What is the composition of our water supply?	Mark all that apply with an X.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Surface water (AF)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater (AF)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual household wells (number)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Reuse (AF)		
6. What is the sector breakdown of our current water demand?		
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture		
<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal/Residential SF		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal/Residential MF		
<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal/Commercial		
7. If you know your current gallons per capita water demand, please provide. If you use another criteria to measure demand, include that instead.		
8. Do you have a gallons per capita water demand target for conservation? Please provide.		
9. Are additional water supply storage projects being considered to meet future demand?	Yes	No
10. Is climate vulnerability and variability part of the assessment of future water supply?	Yes	No
11. Has an assessment of impacts of water conservation been conducted? (e.g. revenue, water infrastructure, etc.)	Yes	No
12. Are proven methodologies for population and growth projections used to determine future water demand? If yes, which methods:	Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/> A linear population growth model is used		
<input type="checkbox"/> Low, medium, and high population projections are used		
<input type="checkbox"/> Growth scenario modeling is used		
<input type="checkbox"/> Other		

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13. Projected land use changes connected to water demand projections with a clear methodology for how future water demand is determined.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Based on total number of households/taps based on growth projections	
<input type="checkbox"/> Based on population projection	
<input type="checkbox"/> Based on density or use type per acre	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
14. What is the source of the population data?	
<input type="checkbox"/> State Demographer	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consultant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
15. Have we included climate vulnerability and variability as part of the assessment of our future water supply? If yes, how did we assess vulnerability?	

Part 3: Our Water Conservation & Efficiency Programs

Brown boxes indicate where to mark responses with an X or comment.

WATER CONSERVATION QUESTIONS		RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
1. What has your community done to promote water conservation?		Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted a Water Conservation Plan			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Adopted a Drought Management Plan or Preparedness Plan			
2. Does your community's water provider(s) conduct any of the following water conservation programs?		Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cash for grass/turf replacement			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rebates for fixtures and appliances			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water efficient product giveaways			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Conservation education for consumers			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping education for property owners			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Landscaping education for landscaping professionals			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water efficiency rebates			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water audits			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Water metering			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rate structuring			
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other			
3. If you have a utility that uses rate structuring to promote water conservation, which of the following does the utility use? Please mark the structure you use with an X.				
	Drought Demand Pricing: Rates are higher during drought periods.			
	Excess Use: Rates are higher for above average water use.			
	Inclining Block: Rate per block increases as water use increases.			
	Indoor/Outdoor: With separate meters, rates for indoor use are lower rates for outdoor use.			
	Penalties: Customers are charged for exceeding allowable limits of water.			
	Scarcity Pricing: The costs of developing new supplies is added to bills.			
	Seasonal Pricing: Water rates are higher during the season with the most demand.			
	Sliding Scale: The unit price increases based on an average consumption.			
	Spatial Pricing: Water rates are determined by the actual costs to supply water to specific locations.			
	Time-of-Use: Water rates are higher during peak days or specific hours of the week.			
	Water Budget: Block rate are defined for each individual customer based on an efficient level for that customer.			
	Other			
4. Are there voluntary water use restrictions for drought periods?		Yes		No

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Part 4: Assessing the Policy Enabling Environment: Land Use – Water Nexus

Brown boxes indicate where to mark responses with an X or comment.

COMP PLAN QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
1. Does the comprehensive plan include recommended goals and/or strategies for the following?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the plan</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustainable water supply and/or demand management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water quality protection or water source protection			
<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed processes and watershed health			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water conservation and efficiency			
<input type="checkbox"/> Designed growth areas connected to water infrastructure			
<input type="checkbox"/> Promotion of compact development patterns			
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate change (mitigation and adaptation)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Drought management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wastewater management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Floodplain and stormwater management			
<input type="checkbox"/> Groundwater management and protection			
2. Does your community have any supporting plans that include elements on water resource management?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the plan</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> A climate action plan, adaptation plan or resiliency plan			
<input type="checkbox"/> A sustainability plan			
<input type="checkbox"/> An emergency preparedness plan			
<input type="checkbox"/> A floodplain management plan			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Adequate Water Supply			
3. Does your Development Code include a policy for the provision of adequate water supply for new development?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<input type="checkbox"/> A definition for an “adequate water supply”			
<input type="checkbox"/> A definition for a “sustainable water supply”			
<input type="checkbox"/> A defined time period for water sustainability			
<input type="checkbox"/> A requirement for demonstration of both physical and legal water adequacy and availability			
<input type="checkbox"/> A requirement for proof of water supply, either a water plan or hydrological study			
<input type="checkbox"/> Maps connected to water adequacy rules			
<input type="checkbox"/> Uniform application to all development			
b. At what point is the proof of water required in the development approval process? <i>Please check one.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial or preliminary plat submittal			
<input type="checkbox"/> At final development approval			

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<input type="checkbox"/> By development phase(s)			
c. Who conducts the water adequacy review for development proposals? <i>Check all that apply with an X.</i>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Review by the State Engineer’s Office (for well permits)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water Resource Department			
<input type="checkbox"/> Utility Department			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water District			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS Site Development Standards for Water Quality	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
4. Does your Development Code include zoning or development standards for water quality protection?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Development standards in sensitive areas through clustering or limited development densities.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Development standards for stream buffers and setbacks to protect water quality.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Vegetation protection standards that minimize disturbance to vegetation within the riparian corridor.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Site level soil erosion mitigation standards for new development to reduce sedimentation and run-off and protect water quality from land disturbance.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Stormwater management standards that utilize best practices for low impact design reducing storm event runoff and increasing water infiltration.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Design standards integrating best practices for low impact design to reduce runoff and increase infiltration.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Zoning districts that require lower densities and/or cluster development to protect surface and groundwater sensitive areas.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Designated surface and/or groundwater districts with standards to minimize contamination of streams and shallow aquifers that will protect existing and potential sources of drinking water supplies. (e.g. watershed overlay zone, groundwater protection zone)			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS Water Efficient Land Use Pattern	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
5. Does your Development Code include policy that promotes and/or supports compact form?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Higher density and smaller lot sizes by right			
<input type="checkbox"/> Mixed use by right			
<input type="checkbox"/> Housing types by right other than single family (e.g. MF, townhomes, ADUs, condos, etc.)			

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<input type="checkbox"/> Rural conservation cluster subdivisions			
<input type="checkbox"/> Development incentives for water efficient development (e.g. density bonus, reduced fees)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Designated future growth and/or infill areas or boundaries with infrastructure available for higher density development.			
6. Does your Development Code have a provision requiring water conservation and efficiency in the:	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Planned Development Policy			
<input type="checkbox"/> Annexation Policy			
DEVELOPMENT CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Efficient Outdoor Water Use			
7. Does your Development Code include landscaping standards to reduce outdoor water use?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Turf limitation (e.g. Type of turf or turf square footage limitations)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Total landscaped area square footage limitation (e.g. Turf and other landscape types)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Plant selection (e.g. Native plants or suitable plants for hydzones)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Irrigation efficiency practices (e.g. drip, bubblers, low flow sprinklers, rain and/or ET sensors)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water schedules for outdoor irrigation to reduce demand and/or evapotranspiration (e.g. time of day, day of week, seasonal)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water budgets for outdoor water use (limitations on allowable water consumption in a landscape area)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Soil enhancements and mulching requirements			
<input type="checkbox"/> Rainwater harvesting standards			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water waste limitations			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water budgets			
<input type="checkbox"/> Site inspections			
<input type="checkbox"/> Code enforcement and fines for violations of standards			
8. Does your Development Code include regulatory, not voluntary, emergency water use restrictions for drought periods?	Yes	No	
BUILDING & PLUMBING CODE QUESTIONS	RESPONSE		LINK TO POLICY
Efficient Indoor Water Use			
9. What is your current plumbing code?			
10. What is your current building code?			
11. Does your code have Plumbing Efficiency Standards that promote water conservation for residential uses?	Yes	No	<i>Please provide a link to the code section</i>
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g. Water Sense, Energy Star, etc.)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g. Water Sense, Energy Star, etc.)			

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12. Does your code have Plumbing Efficiency Standards that promote water conservation for Commercial, Industrial, Institutional uses?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?	Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficient plumbing fixture requirement (e.g. water sense)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water efficient appliance requirement (e.g. water sense)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Additional commercial standards for high water consumption uses (e.g. car washes, golf courses, hotels, restaurants, laundromat, etc.) including:			
<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-rinse spray valves			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water recycling systems			
<input type="checkbox"/> Greywater reuse			
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooling systems			
<input type="checkbox"/> Decorative water features			
<input type="checkbox"/> Water saving signage			
13. Does your code include any of the following plumbing and building water saving standards?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, does it include any of the following?	Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Metering for commercial and single-family units for new development connections			
<input type="checkbox"/> Submetering for multifamily units for new development connections			
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee incentive for new development to incorporate additional water efficient fixtures, appliances, plumbing above the required standard.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Requirement for plumbing fixture retrofit on resale or for rehabilitation of property to receive C.O. or as a fee incentive for new development.			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tap availability limitations			
<input type="checkbox"/> Tap fee incentives for water conservation measures			
14. Are you doing anything else to conserve water that is not already mentioned in this assessment?	Yes	No	
a. If Yes, please describe:			