

## Colorado Municipal League Workshop

### Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning: What Elected Officials Need to Know

August 23, 2018

## Resource List

### Documents, Reports, and Web Resources

#### 1. ***Breaking Down Silos: Integrating Water into Land Use Planning***

The Colorado Water Conservation Board, the Pace University Land Use Law Center, and the Department of Local Affairs' Community Development Office hosted a series of webinars targeted at Colorado water providers and local government planners. There are also three training modules on the topics of breaking down silos, the comprehensive plan, and the zoning code.

<https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/cowaterplan/integrating-water-land-use-planning>

#### 2. ***Integrating Land Use and Water Resources: Planning to Support Water Supply Diversification – 4623***

This is a joint project by the Brendle Group and Western Resource Advocates (WRA). This project explored current and future opportunities to diversify water supplies through better coordination between water utilities and the land use planning and development community. The project team conducted a literature review on water supply diversification practices that may be available through the integration of water resource and land use planning. Additional information, gathered through an online survey, stakeholder interviews, and focus groups, was used to develop case studies and inform the other work products. Project deliverables include a summary report, a coordinated planning guide, a literature review, and literature review sources and case study interview database. Published in 2018.

<http://www.waterrf.org/Pages/Projects.aspx?PID=4623>

#### 3. ***Colorado Water and Growth Dialog***

As part of the Colorado Water and Growth Dialog, the Keystone Center retained Clarion Associates to review what actions other states and local governments have taken to reduce water consumption in new development. More specifically, the firm was requested to research what actions have been taken related to comprehensive planning, zoning, subdivision, and land development regulation before initial occupancy of new development that would have a significant impact on water consumption in that project, building, or facility after it is occupied and throughout its useful life.

<http://www.clarionassociates.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Keystone-Colorado-Water-Dialogue.pdf>

*A subsequent iteration of this report from the 2015 Dialog is underway, with expected publication in late fall 2018.*

#### 4. ***Verde Land & Planning Toolbox***

This Toolbox was created by Friends of the Verde River in Arizona, but many techniques and examples are relevant to Colorado communities. The Verde Land & Water Planning Toolbox provides a comprehensive set of tools and strategies for municipal and county level

governments to explore as part of their efforts to improve the connection between land use and water management policy and planning. The tools provided in this online database are a menu of options designed to reach community goals for water conservation and demand reduction, and in many cases, also contribute to increased resilience and cost savings that benefit residents as well. The tools are compiled into a range of search categories that range from the high-level, aspirational planning policies that are typically found in general and comprehensive plans to more specific and targeted planning approaches, such as developer incentives and offsets, and water conservation ordinances. Within each category, case studies provide real-world examples of implementation and feature sample ordinance or policy language that can be tailored and adapted to individual community circumstances. <http://verderiver.org/local-land-use-planning-toolbox/>

## 5. [\*\*Drought Planning Toolbox\*\*](#)

The Colorado Water Conservation Board's Drought Planning Toolbox is designed to assist water users throughout the state with their efforts in planning and response to a drought. Explore the toolbox to find drought information and data, as well as a comprehensive suite of planning resources and tools on:

- **Drought Status and Monitoring:** Information on the status of current drought conditions, drought indices, fire conditions, and other drought monitoring resources, including data and Water Availability/ Impact Task Force reports.
- **Financial Assistance:** Includes links to funding sources for the development of drought mitigation and response plans, as well as drought-related mitigation projects and relief during times of drought.
- **Drought Planning Resources:** Introduction to local drought planning and step-by-step guidance for developing local municipal drought management plans.
- **Drought and Climate Change:** Information on climate change and potential influences on drought.

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/technical-resources/drought-planning-toolbox/Pages/main.aspx>

## 6. [\*\*Sonoran Institute Self-Assessment\*\*](#)

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. 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; Section 2 gathers information about your water supply and demand; Section 3 gathers information on current water conservation and efficiency efforts included in water and land use policies and plans; and 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.

<https://resilientwest.org/2018/growing-water-smart-self-assessment/>

*The following resources can be found at: <https://westernresourceadvocates.org/healthy-rivers/land-use-planning-for-water-efficiency/>*

## 7. [\*\*New House New Paradigm\*\*](#)

This WRA report provides an innovative take on how new housing developments should proceed in the West and documents how a new water-conserving approach has succeeded in a handful of new communities.

## 8. [\*\*Submetering Fact Sheet\*\*](#)

Submetering is the action of providing each tenant in a multi-family building their own water meter. Many multi-family buildings only have one meter for the entire building, severely limiting the ability of each resident to individually track and manage their water use. This fact sheet provides information on submetering options and issues.

9. **[50 Questions to Guide Water and Land Use Planning Integration](#)**

This question series is a must for any water provider looking to understand how effectively their community's comprehensive plan addresses water efficiency.

10. **[Codes and Ordinances Fact Sheet](#)**

WaterSense codes for new development enable water use reductions of 20% compared to the status quo, and are being adopted by communities across the West. This factsheet discusses several code options, their water savings potential, and considerations for local adoption.

11. **[Bridging The Governance Gap](#)**

This report from the University of Montana is an excellent background piece describing why the land use and water planning institutions are traditionally siloed, and provides several recommendations for improved integration.

12. **[A Guide to Designing Conservation-Oriented Water System Development Charges](#)**

System development fees, often referred to as "tap fees," are increasingly used by Colorado communities as a way to incentivize water-efficient new developments (homes, businesses and other facilities). This Guide offers practical guidelines for designing and implementing such fees.

## **Trainings and Technical Assistance**

13. ***Growing Water Smart Training & Technical Assistance***

The Sonoran Institute's Growing Water Smart Workshop will be offered for Colorado communities in the spring and fall until 2020. The Growing Water Smart program helps communities bridge the gap between water management and land use planning to build a more resilient future.

<https://resilientwest.org/2018/growing-water-smart/>

14. WRA is interested in direct engagement and assistance – call us! Contact Amelia Nuding or John Berggren at Western Resource Advocates: [amelia.nuding@westernresources.org](mailto:amelia.nuding@westernresources.org) or [john.berggren@westernresources.org](mailto:john.berggren@westernresources.org)

## **Forthcoming Documents, May be Available Upon Request**

15. ***Incorporating Water Into Comprehensive Plans in Colorado Communities and Colorado Comprehensive Plan Review***

This document is being developed by the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, with input from the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado Water Conservation Board, and Colorado communities. It describes the process and specific pieces of information that are necessary for incorporating water into a comprehensive plan, with examples from existing Colorado comprehensive plans. It was informed by a review of Colorado

comprehensive plans for their integration of water into comprehensive plans; the data from this review is also available upon request.

Contact Erin Rugland, [erugland@lincolninst.edu](mailto:erugland@lincolninst.edu), to inquire about reviewing these materials.  
*Expected publish date: Fall 2018*

#### **16. *Integrating Water Efficiency Into Land Use Planning in the Interior West: A Guidebook for Local Planners***

This manual is being developed by Western Resource Advocates and Pace University's Land Use Law Center. The goal of this Manual's authors and funders is to produce an informative compendium of land use techniques that can reduce water use in new and existing development, and to target this information to local land use planners.

Contact Amelia Nuding or John Berggren at Western Resource Advocates to inquire about this manual; [amelia.nuding@westernresources.org](mailto:amelia.nuding@westernresources.org) or [john.berggren@westernresources.org](mailto:john.berggren@westernresources.org).

*Expected publish date: November 2018*

#### **17. *Guidance on Incorporating Land Use into Water Efficiency Plans and Checklist of Best Practices***

This document provides guidance to Colorado water suppliers in complying with a recent directive to incorporate land use authorities into the Water Efficiency Plans they are required to file. It is an addendum to the existing 2012 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Document being prepared by the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, with funding from the CWCB and Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. This guidance on best practices for implementing water conservation through land use measures is informed by an extensive literature review, interviews with water providers, feedback from an Advisory Committee, and a workshop for water providers. The final product will consist of a Checklist of Best Practices for land use efforts that can be incorporated into Water Efficiency Plans, complete with links and case studies of relevant examples for each best practice, and a sample land use section for a Water Efficiency Plan.

Contact Anne Castle, [anneicastle@gmail.com](mailto:anneicastle@gmail.com), or Erin Rugland, [erugland@lincolninst.edu](mailto:erugland@lincolninst.edu), to inquire about this Guidance and Best Practices Checklist.

*Expected publish date: Winter 2018*