



COLORADO

Water Efficiency
Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2010-2011
ANNUAL REPORT

**COLORADO WATER
CONSERVATION BOARD**



OVERVIEW

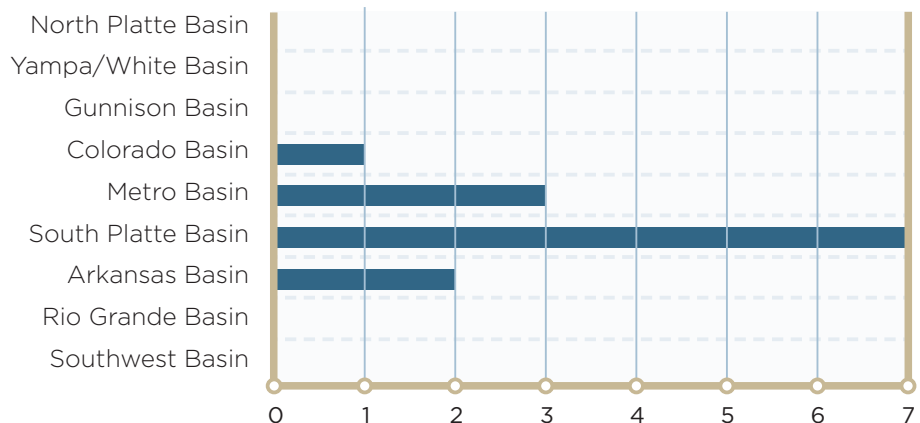
The Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP), created in 2004 under HB05-1254, is administered by the CWCB's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning (OWCDP). This grant program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers, and eligible entities statewide for water conservation and implementation as well as drought planning and implementation projects. Since 2005, more than \$2.5 million has been awarded through this grant program.

The Water Efficiency Grant Program provides funding to water providers who plan to implement high efficiency water fixture rebate programs.

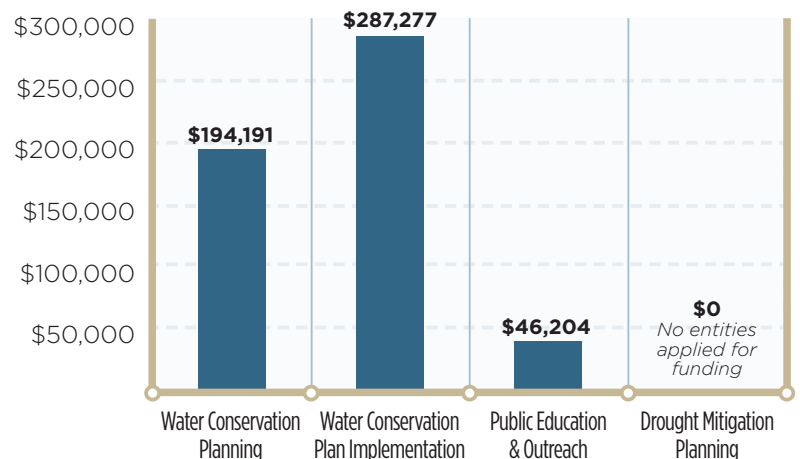
Water Efficiency Grants are available in the following areas of water resource planning:

- Water Conservation Planning
- Water Conservation Plan Implementation
- Water Resource Conservation Public Education & Outreach
- Drought Mitigation Planning
- Drought Mitigation Plan Implementation

NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY10 - 11



GRANT AMOUNTS AWARDED IN FY10 - 11

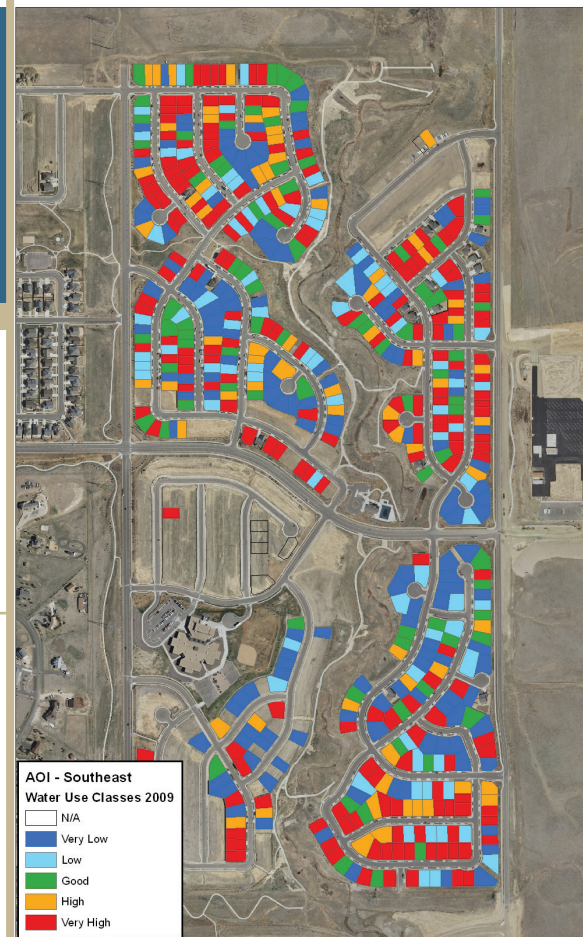


WATER CONSERVATION PLANNING PROJECTS

A goal of the OWCDP is to provide support and assistance to water providers, local and state governmental entities to develop or update Water Conservation Plans. Across Colorado, water entities of all sizes turn to the OWCDP to assist with these local water planning efforts.

With improved GIS mapping capabilities, the City of Aurora will be able to assist their customers in more efficient water use.

For Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the OWCDP awarded six water conservation planning grants to the following entities:



City of Westminster	\$38,130	Metro Basin
Town of Frederick	\$15,000	South Platte Basin
Town of Eaton	\$35,411	South Platte Basin
City of Dacono	\$35,105	South Platte Basin
Regional Plan <i>Town of Monument, Town of Palmer Lake, Tri View Metropolitan District</i>	\$36,470	Arkansas Basin
Town of Estes Park	\$34,075	South Platte Basin

“Thanks to the generous Colorado Water Conservation Board Water Efficiency Grant awarded to Aurora Water to map the City and correlate this data with water use history, Aurora Water’s Conservation Division will be able to proactively identify and assist the most inefficient water users. The grant provides the foundational information and data to transform the strategy of the Division and improve the effectiveness of our efforts to increase water efficiency throughout the City.”

- LYLE WHITNEY
Water Conservation Supervisor, Aurora Water Department

WATER CONSERVATION IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

Entities can further utilize WEGP money to implement goals and programs identified in a CWCB-approved Water Conservation Plan.

For Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the OWCDP awarded six grants for implementation projects to the following entities:

East Larimer County Water District Leak Detection

South Platte Basin • \$9,790

The East Larimer County Water District (ELCO) used grant money to have a professional leak detection company survey approximately 20% of the District's transmission and distribution system to locate leaks.

Town of Firestone Rebate Program

South Platte Basin • \$41,455

The Town was awarded grant funds to develop a high efficiency toilet and washing machine rebate program to achieve water savings. One of the goals set forth in Firestone's Water Conservation Plan is to reduce residential water use by 4.7% over a ten year planning horizon. The Town forecasts that this rebate program will achieve 12% or 16.6 acre feet of its residential goal.

City of Rifle New Development Requirements/ Rebate Program

Colorado Basin • \$47,085

The City is utilizing grant funds to develop various programs including:

- Establishing landscape and irrigation design requirements for new development to reduce outdoor water use by 10 %
- Establishing high efficiency indoor plumbing requirements for new development to save an estimated 20% of indoor water use
- Creating a new conservation web site
- Creating a water efficient plumbing fixture and appliance policy for the city to save 3.5 ac-ft per year.
- Creating smart irrigation controller, high efficiency toilet and clothes washer rebate programs to save an estimated 5 acre feet of water per year.

North Table Mountain Water & Sanitation District

Water Audit & Irrigation Audits

Metro Basin • \$25,370

The District has used grant funds to implement a sonic leak detection audit of the distribution system; conduct irrigation audits of residential properties, commercial, parks, and Home Owners Association properties; and create new landscape regulations. The District projects an estimated water savings of 14.7 acre feet will result from these efforts.

Left Hand Water District Commercial Audit

South Platte Basin • \$45,836

The District has used grant funds to improve leak detection and repair of distribution lines with previously identified leaks and aging infrastructure in select subdivisions. The grant will also enable the District to conduct water audits of residential, commercial and industrial properties. The district projects annual water savings of 89 acre feet.

City of Aurora GIS Water Efficiency Mapping & Identification

Metro Basin • \$117,741

The City was awarded grant funds to create a map of the entire city, grading each parcel for their water use ranging from very high water use to very low water use. These grades will be determined by comparing pervious surface to outdoor water use and by examining average household size to each individual parcel's winter quarterly average water use. Once Aurora is mapped, the City will hire a company to create a database that will link water bill history to the mapped irrigated square footage in each tax parcel. Combining the outdoor water use with the indoor water use will help Aurora target 200 of its most inefficient water users & achieve a projected water savings of 44 acre feet per year.

PUBLIC EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROJECTS

The OWCDP is committed to promoting the benefits of water resource conservation to a wide audience and supporting statewide public education and outreach efforts to increase water conservation awareness.

For Fiscal Year 2010-2011, the OWCDP awarded one grant for a public education & outreach project to the following organization:

Colorado State University Extension/
Colorado Water Institute (CWI)
Water Resources Education Curriculum (WREC)
\$46,204

CSU Extension/CWI is using grant funds to develop and implement a multi-year curriculum for Colorado's public high schools. The WREC program will educate high school-aged students in water conservation, ranging from development of a water conservation plan to implementation of goals and programs. The program fosters awareness of water conservation issues through career development in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). CSU Extension/CWI believes the WREC program will be a sustainable curriculum that can be implemented in other school districts throughout the state.



Grant funds awarded to Left Hand Water District assisted in repair of distribution lines.

DROUGHT MITIGATION PLANNING PROJECTS

Drought is one of the most destructive of all natural hazards, yet often the least planned for by local governments. Drought adversely affects nearly all sectors of Colorado's economy. In 2011, the OWCDP developed a Municipal Drought Management Plan Guidance Document and a Sample of a Municipal Drought Management Plan to aid entities in developing a Drought Mitigation & Response Plan. No grants were awarded in FY2010-2011. However, applications have been received for FY2011-2012.

"Decreasing scores on international tests of science and math competency since the 1980's point out the need for education in the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields among American students. The Water Resources Education Curriculum (WREC) Program uses the goal of water conservation as a strategy to convey STEM principles while realizing monetary savings as an incentive. Such real-world experiential activities are proven vehicles for helping students learn and retain information longer. We are pleased to have three schools (2 in Pueblo County and 1 in El Paso County) that have been selected to participate. Our next step is to begin fully deploying the program and monitoring equipment at these schools in the coming semester."

- PERRY CABOT
Water Resource Specialist,
Colorado Water Institute
and CSU Extension



Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning

The CWCB's Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning was created to promote water conservation and drought mitigation planning and implementation by: acting as a repository for related information; providing technical assistance; providing financial assistance; and providing evaluation of plans to address water needs and prepare for water related emergencies.

1313 Sherman Street
Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

P 303.866.3441
F 303.866.4474

<http://cwcb.state.co.us>

