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# COLORADO

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WATER EFFICIENCY  
GRANT PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR  
2011-2012  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



COLORADO WATER  
CONSERVATION BOARD

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# Overview

*The Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP), created in 2005 under HB05-1254 and expanded in 2007 through SB07-008, is administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning (OWCDP). This grant program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers, and eligible entities statewide for water efficiency planning, and implementation, as well as drought planning and implementation projects. Since 2005, more than \$2.9 million has been awarded through this grant program.*

**For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the OWCDP awarded over \$432,000 to ten projects in six river basins.**

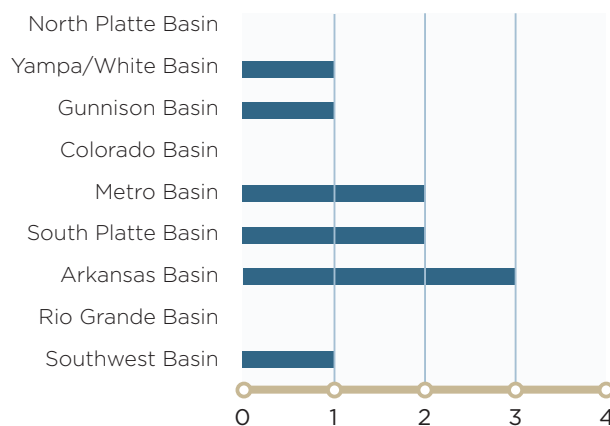
Water Efficiency Grants are available in the following areas of water resource planning:

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

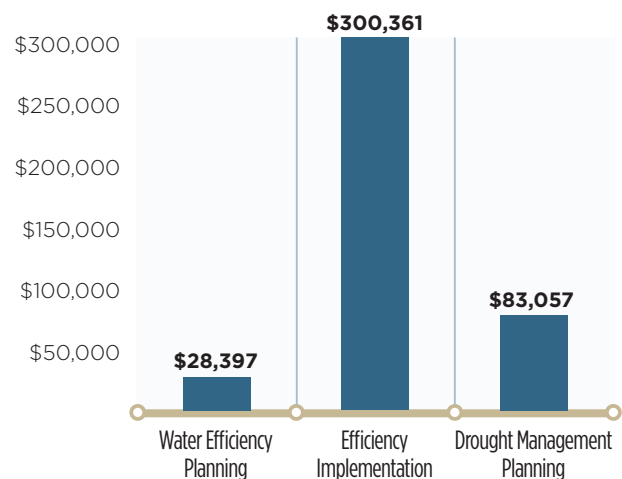


*St Charles employee installing a new radio read water meter*

**NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY11 - 12**



**GRANT AMOUNTS AWARDED IN FY11 - 12**





## Water Efficiency Planning Projects

*A goal of the OWCDP is to provide technical and financial support and assistance to water providers, state, and local governmental entities to develop or update Water Efficiency Plans. Across Colorado, water entities of all sizes turn to the OWCDP for assistance with local water efficiency planning efforts.*

**For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the OWCDP awarded one water efficiency planning grant to the following entity:**

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District*	\$28,397	Arkansas Basin
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*\* During the process of developing a Regional Water Efficiency Plan for the Lower Arkansas River Valley, it was determined non-revenue water was an important issue to address for all entities involved, and the reduction of water loss would be key in measuring future success for the Regional Plan. The SECWCD applied for an additional grant to conduct system wide audits for the 38 participants to understand what influences water loss and tracking of non-revenue water.*



*“The CWCB issued us a grant to help fund a water efficiency rebate program to assist in implementing the Steamboat Springs Water Efficiency Plan. We have processed over 70 applications and issued over \$8,700 in rebates to homeowners. This program not only reduces actual water use for the homeowner, but also raises the homeowner’s awareness of possible water savings elsewhere. From actual water savings to its educational value, this program is a key element for meeting our long-term efficiency goals.”*

– JAY GALLAGHER  
General Manager, Mount Werner  
Water and Sanitation District

# Water Efficiency Implementation Projects

*Entities may utilize WEGP money to implement the goals and programs identified in their CWCB-approved Water Efficiency Plan.*

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**For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the OWCDP awarded six grants for implementation projects to the following entities:**

**St Charles Mesa Water District  
Meter Replacement**

*Arkansas Basin • \$49,915*

The St Charles Mesa Water District received grant money to replace 400 existing meters with Automatic Meter Reading devices. The new meters will provide the District with more accurate, frequent information which will enable them to reduce the amount of water lost due to leaks; as well as track the effects of water efficiency programs that the District has implemented.

**City of Steamboat Springs/  
Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District  
Rebate Program**

*Yampa/White Basin • \$49,500*

Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District and the City of Steamboat Springs jointly utilized funds to offer toilet rebates to residential & commercial users, and clothes washers and dishwasher rebates to residential users. The rebate program also offered incentives to residential & commercial/HOA customers who wanted to replace inefficient irrigation equipment. The two water providers estimate this program will save over 25 acre feet of water per year.

**City of Dacono  
Water Rate Study**

*South Platte Basin • \$35,230*

The City of Dacono used grant money to conduct a Water Rate Study to determine if altering the rate structure would help the municipality promote water conservation among its customers. The final report presented an alternative rate structure that was recommended to the City and would replace the existing structure. If adopted by the City, the new structure would raise rates 15% in 2013 and 5% annually through 2018 to meet revenue needs for future anticipated capital projects and promote water efficiency.

**Castle Pines Metropolitan District  
AMI Installation**

*Metro Basin • \$115,752*

Castle Pines Metropolitan District (CPM) used a grant to purchase and install an Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) Fixed Based System to monitor and track water

consumption more frequently. Since CPM's water supply comes solely from non-renewable groundwater sources, they recognize the significant role water conservation must play to ensure adequate future water supplies. Data gathered from this system will help detect water leaks sooner, eliminate excessive irrigation, and effectively manage monthly water consumption. Additionally, the AMI program will integrate AquaHawk Alerting, a water consumption analysis software program and web based water conservation and customer communication system. CPM estimates cumulative savings of 131 acre feet of water over 8 years, through the implementation of these technologies.

**Tri-County Water Conservancy District  
Commercial Audits**

*Gunnison Basin • \$22,139*

Tri-County Water Conservancy District utilized grant money to conduct water audits with their three largest commercial-industrial water users: The Delta Correctional Center, Ridgway State Park and Del-Mesa Farms. After the audits were completed, Tri-County has estimated these facilities could experience combined water savings of 8.8 million gallons saved per year if the recommended upgrades were made.

**City of Longmont  
Rebates/Giveaways**

*South Platte Basin • \$27,825*

The City is using grant funds to develop a multitude of water conservation initiatives including:

- Commercial Pre-Rinse Nozzle Conversion Program - The City estimates 25 nozzles will be given away to local restaurants and other commercial/institutional kitchens. Longmont estimates this will save 19 acre feet per year.
- Residential Toilet Rebate Program - Longmont will offer \$50 high efficiency toilet rebates to 100 customers. They estimate this will save 3.3 acre feet per year.
- Irrigation Audits - The City will use the Center for ReSource Conservation (CRC) to perform an estimated 70 residential & 10 commercial outdoor irrigation audits throughout their service area.
- Water-Wise Landscape Seminars - CRC will help the City conduct two Water-Wise Landscape Seminars to help residents increase water use efficiency by using best management practices.
- Garden-in-a-Box Program - Garden-In-A-Box is a low cost, professionally designed and pre-planned Xeric gardens sold to customers to encourage planting low water use landscapes. The City estimates 125 gardens will be sold. Each garden includes a design layout, 30 or more plants along with planting & maintenance instructions for the customer.

The City has estimated the nozzle conversion & rebate programs along with the irrigation audits will result in annual water savings of 24.5 acre feet.





# Drought Management Implementation Projects

Entities may utilize WEGP funds to implement the goals and programs identified in their CWCB-approved Drought Management Plan.

For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the OWCDP did not receive an application for implementation projects, but does anticipate awarding future grants as more communities have Drought Management Plan approved by CWCB.

## Public Education & Outreach Projects

The OWCDP is committed to promoting the benefits of water resource conservation and supporting statewide public education and outreach efforts to increase water conservation awareness. Public education & outreach grants can reach a broad audience and help achieve these goals.

For Fiscal Year 2011-2012, the OWCDP did not receive any applications for public education & outreach grants.

## Drought Management 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, however, improved drought management can reduce these impacts.

During FY 2011-2012, the OWCDP was excited to award three drought management planning grants to the following entities:

Town of Firestone	\$39,031	South Platte Basin
Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District	\$21,104	Southwest Basin
City of Evans	\$44,026	South Platte Basin

By developing Drought Management Plans, communities are working to appropriately address and reduce existing and potential drought related impacts. These Plans can help to preserve essential public services and minimize the effects of a water supply emergency on public health and safety, the local economy, environmental resources and quality of life.

“We are grateful for the various funding we have received over the years from the Colorado Water Conservation Board grant program. This funding has helped Firestone stay ahead through improved planning preparedness and management. With the present grant we received to develop a Drought Management Plan, Firestone now has the tools in place for our community to face droughts in the future.”

- WES LAVANCHY  
Town Manager  
Town of Firestone

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## Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning

### ***Water Supply Planning Section***

*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.*

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