



COLORADO WATER  
CONSERVATION BOARD

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# COLORADO WATER EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM

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**FISCAL YEAR**  
**2012-2013**  
**ANNUAL REPORT**



# 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) within the Water Supply Planning Section. This grant program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers, and eligible entities statewide for water efficiency and implementation, as well as drought planning and implementation projects. Since 2005, more than \$3.3 million has been awarded through this grant program.*

**For Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the OWCDP awarded over \$431,000 to thirteen projects in five river basins.**

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

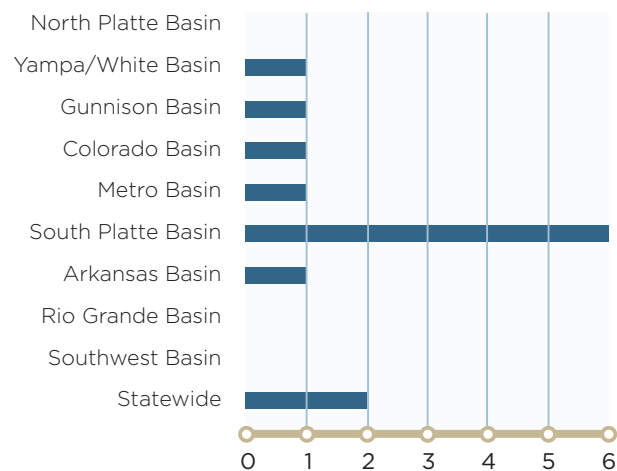
- Water Efficiency Planning
- Water Efficiency Plan Implementation
- Water Resource Conservation Public Education & Outreach
- Drought Management Planning
- Drought Management Plan Implementation



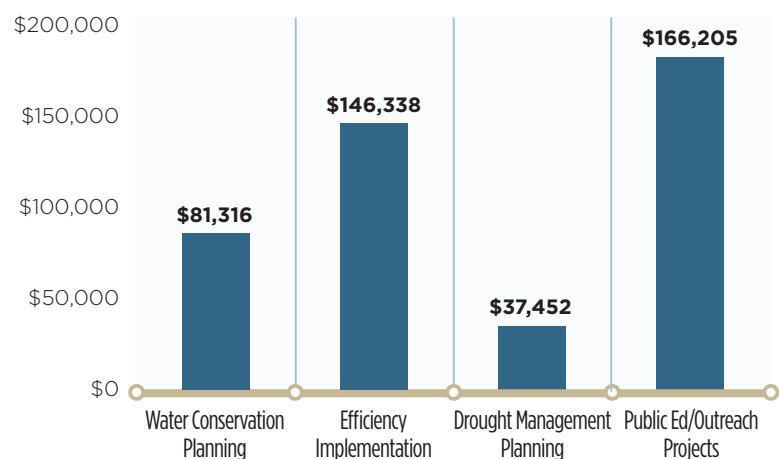
*CRC auditor performs a flow test on a pre-rinse spray valve at Two Spoons Gelato Shop in Boulder.*

## NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY12 - 13

*The Public Education & Outreach grants awarded to Recharge Colorado and Green Industries of Colorado are not basin specific*



## GRANT AMOUNTS AWARDED IN FY12 - 13



## 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 2012-2013, the OWCDP awarded two water efficiency planning grants to the following entities:**

City of Englewood	\$46,316	Metro Basin
City of Ouray	\$35,000	Gunnison Basin

## 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 2012-2013, 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.**

## 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 2012-2013, the OWCDP awarded one drought management planning grant to the following entity:**

Town of Erie	\$37,452	South Platte Basin
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*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.*

*“The Water Efficiency Grant Program is an invaluable tool for rural communities like Ouray. This opportunity provides us the means to develop efficiency programs that are best for our community while also supporting regional needs.”*

– PATRICK RONDINELLI,  
CITY ADMINISTRATOR, CITY OF OURAY

# WATER EFFICIENCY IMPLEMENTATION PROJECTS

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

## **For Fiscal Year 2012-2013, the OWCDP awarded five grants for implementation projects to the following entities:**

### **St Charles Mesa Water District Meter Replacement Phase 2**

*Arkansas Basin • \$49,919.66*

The St Charles Mesa Water District purchased and replaced 259 existing meters with Automatic Meter Reading devices with grant money they received from CWCB. 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*

The Mount Werner Water & Sanitation District and the City of Steamboat Springs utilized grant funds to offer rebates to their residential and commercial customers. Residential customers were eligible to receive toilet, clothes washer and dishwasher rebates and toilet rebates were offered to commercial users. The rebate program also offered incentives to residential & commercial/HOA customers who wanted to replace inefficient irrigation equipment. To date, 150,000 gallons have been saved a month from the issued rebates. Once fully implemented, Steamboat and Mount Werner estimate the rebate program will save over 25 acre feet or 8.1 million gallons of water per year.

### **Little Thompson Water District (LTWD) Water Rate Study**

*South Platte Basin • \$24,150*

LTWD was awarded grant funds to conduct a Water Rate Study. LTWD anticipated the study would help them achieve 2% savings or 262 acre feet over seven years in the residential and commercial categories. Two alternative rate structures were recommended to be implemented for both residential & non-residential categories. The recommended alternative rate for residential customers sends the strongest conservation message of all the other alternatives and lowers the annual charges for those who use less water. The residential alternative tiered rate would lower the first tier usage charge and increase the Tier 4 usage charge. The recommended alternative water rate for non-residential customer would establish uniform rates, eliminating all tiers for non-residential and irrigation only customers. The

study found variability in the monthly water use of LTWD's non-residential accounts & noted that large customers should not be charged higher rates for simply being a large customer especially if they are an efficient water user. LTWD has not yet implemented a change to their rate structure but is still considering their options.

### **Town of Windsor Water Kits Giveaway Program**

*South Platte Basin • \$14,058*

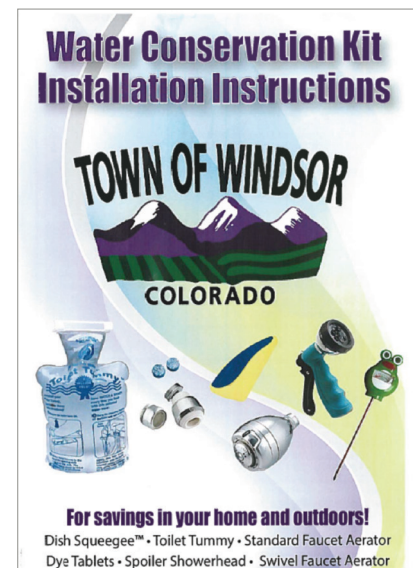
Residential water users account for 55% of all water used in the Town of Windsor. The Town used grant funds to purchase and give away 1,000 Water Audit Kits to the highest residential water users. The kits include indoor retrofits such as showerheads, kitchen and bathroom aerators as well as a spray nozzle for outdoor use.

The kits include educational tools such as moisture meter for a garden and leak detection tablets. As of November 2013, 340 kits were picked up by Windsor residents. Each resident using the kit is estimated to save over 5,400 gallons per year.

### **East Larimer County Water District Water Rate Study**

*South Platte Basin • \$24,775*

East Larimer County Water Conservancy District (ELCO) utilized grant money to conduct a water rate study. By examining its current cost of service, ELCO believes the rate study will ensure that any new rate structure generates sufficient revenues while preventing one customer class from subsidizing another and still encourage water conservation. By adopting a new rate structure, ELCO estimates they can achieve 4.5% savings or 312 acre-feet of water saved through 2016 in the residential and commercial categories.





# 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 2012-2013, the OWCDP awarded five grants for public education & outreach projects to the following organizations.

### Center for Resource Conservation (CRC)

#### *Impact Analysis of the Slow the Flow Program*

**\$48,800**

CRC's Slow the Flow program was initially funded by CWCB in 2005. Since then, the program has conducted over 10,000 audits in cooperation with over 20 water providers. In 2013, CRC was awarded additional grant money to determine the program's impact on water use & calculate the water saved. Preliminary findings show an average resident who received an audit can save approximately 4,600 gallons of water annually.

### Recharge Colorado

#### *Water-Energy Nexus Workshops • \$34,925*

The Water-Energy Nexus has garnered significant interest over the past few years. In an effort to increase collaboration of the water and energy communities, Recharge Colorado used grant money to conduct three workshops in the Arkansas, Colorado and South Platte/Metro basins. The intent of the workshops was to advance the dialogue between the water and energy communities. The workshops were well attended with over 80 individuals participating. The workshops were successful in highlighting a number of issues and concerns including identifying the need for more education, the need for better coordination among the water and energy supply development efforts & the lack of data analysis tools with regard to integrated resource planning on the basin wide level.

### Community Office for Resource Efficiency (CORE)

#### *Organizing Roaring Fork Watershed Regional Conservation Plan • Colorado River Basin*

**\$5,400**

CORE was awarded grant monies to fund an outreach and organizing effort as the first step in completing a Regional Water Conservation Plan in the Roaring Fork Watershed. The goal of this grant was to create a Memorandum of Understanding between five water providers in the region that would lead to a regional plan that identified water conservation practices that can be applied consistently throughout the watershed while addressing the unique needs and interests of each provider. The five providers include: the City of Aspen, Town of Basalt, Town of Carbondale, City of Glenwood Springs & Snowmass Water and Sanitation District. A Memorandum of Understanding was executed in June 2013. The MOU stated

that all five providers would commit to cooperating throughout the process of preparing a grant application for funding to develop the plan, final approval and implementation of the plan. Additional grant funding for the development of a regional conservation plan was approved by the CWCB Board during the November 2013 CWCB Board Meeting.

### Green Industries of Colorado (GreenCO)

#### *Drought Fact Sheets & Videos • \$29,275*



As watering restrictions were becoming a reality throughout Colorado in Spring 2013, GreenCO was awarded grant money to produce five fact sheets and four videos focused on educating the public on reducing outdoor water use during a drought. Fact sheets and videos were made available to green industry professionals, water providers, government agencies and non-profit organizations.

The videos and fact sheets focused on the following topics: Helping yards survive a drought, sprinkler system tips, conservation tips for HOAs or large commercial properties, when & how to water, Xeriscape and protecting trees in a drought. The four videos were produced and uploaded to YouTube and has attracted over 1,600 viewers.

### Center for Resource Conservation (CRC)

#### *Indoor Commercial Water Audit Program*

**South Platte Basin • \$47,805**

The CRC received funds to develop and implement a commercial indoor water audit program that targets restaurants and hotels along the Front Range. Auditing these commercial properties will help CRC's Front Range municipal partners achieve their conservation goals for their respective utilities. CRC anticipates their partners will support this commercial indoor water audit program in the future. The CRC will perform audits in the following counties: Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson, Larimer and Weld.



## 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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