



COLORADO
WATER EFFICIENCY
GRANT PROGRAM

FISCAL YEAR
2013-2014

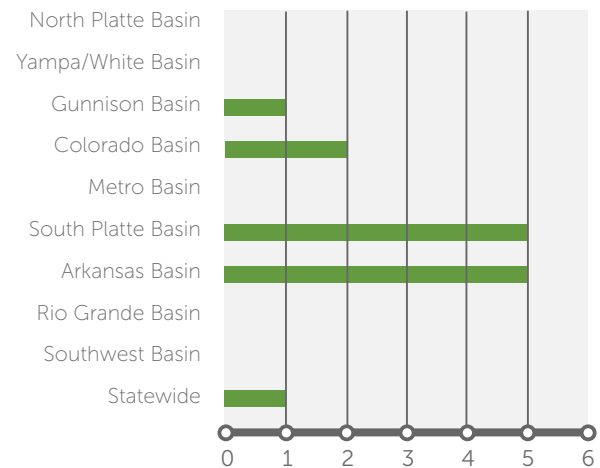
ANNUAL REPORT

Overview

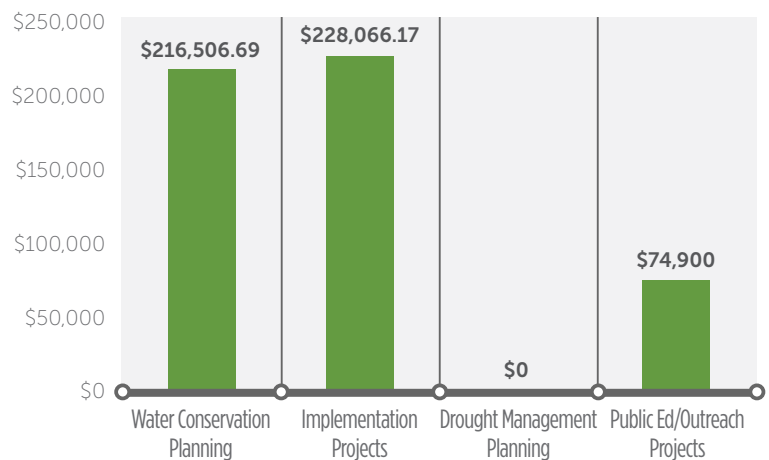
The Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP), created in 2005 under HB05-1254 and expanded in 2007 through SB07-008, is administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning (OWCDP) within the Water Supply Planning Section. This grant program provides financial 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 \$3.8 million has been awarded through this grant program.

NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY13 - 14

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



GRANT AMOUNTS AWARDED IN FY13 - 14



For Fiscal Year 2013-2014, the CWCB awarded over \$519,000 to fourteen projects in four 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



Water Efficiency Planning Projects

A goal of the CWCB 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 CWCB for assistance with local water efficiency planning efforts.

For Fiscal Year 2013-2014, the OWCDP awarded five water efficiency planning grants to the following entities:

Roaring Fork Watershed Regional Plan	\$93,538.13	Colorado
City of Louisville	\$40,527.88	South Platte
Town of Erie	\$33,087	South Platte
Town of Firestone	\$31,703.68	South Platte
Mt Crested Butte Water & Sanitation District/Skyland Metropolitan District	\$17,650	Gunnison

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 2013-2014, the CWCB awarded seven grants for implementation projects to the following entities:

St Charles Mesa Water District Meter Replacement Phase 3 Arkansas Basin • \$49,919.66

The St Charles Mesa Water District purchased and replaced 270 existing water meters with Automatic Meter Reading devices with grant money they received from CWCB. The new meters, along with the other 659 meters installed from Phases 1 & 2 of this project, 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 Grand Junction Commercial & Residential Audit Program Colorado Basin • \$45,450

The City of Grand Junction partnered with Ute Water Conservancy and the Clifton Water District to use grant funds to help pay for 100 landscape audits for residential customers and water audits for six of the top commercial/industrial water users. The water providers believe auditing the six commercial/industrial customers will result in 3-5% water savings over seven years. To date, a restaurant and high school have been audited within the Clifton Water District service area. If the suggested recommendations are implemented, the High School could save 3,140 gallons/year and the restaurant could save 830 gallons per year. A printing facility in Grand Junction has been audited and they could save 470 gallons per year if they fully implement the suggested conservation recommendations. The three water provider partners have estimated auditing 100 residential landscapes can result in 10-15% water savings through 2021.

Water Efficiency Implementation Projects
continued on next page

Water Efficiency Implementation Projects *continued*

Security Water District (SWD) Water Loss Control Audit *Arkansas Basin • \$17,825*

SWD utilized grant money to use the International Water Association/American Water Works Association (AWWA) Water Audit Method published in the AWWA Manual of Practice M36 to conduct the City's first "top down approach" desktop water loss audit. SWD had experienced an average loss of 10-12% non-revenue water loss & wanted to find the cause of the loss. After SWD staff & their consultants developed the preliminary audit, the results of the desktop audit were reviewed by an international water loss expert. SWD found that out of the 110 million gallons that were lost every year all but 66 million gallons could be addressed through future actions.

City of Lafayette Pre Rinse Spray Nozzle Replacement Program *South Platte Basin • \$6,581.25*

Lafayette is using grant money to purchase 60 pre-rinse spray nozzles to replace existing nozzles in local restaurants and commercial kitchens free of charge to the business. To date, the City has experienced a 40% success rate for installation. Water savings have yet to be calculated but the City estimated that it could achieve as much as 3.81 acre feet of annual savings. The City hopes this program will help educate the kitchen workers in the restaurants and commercial kitchens to instill long term behavioral changes and possibly increase future water savings.

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District (SECWCD) Best Management Practices (BMP) Toolbox Enhancement & Water Conservation Plans *Arkansas Basin • \$37,967.26*

SECWCD developed a Regional Water Conservation Plan in 2013 and are using grant funds to expand the Plan to include the District's 13 Master Contract entities that participate in District projects and programs. Grant money will also be utilized to develop six Water Conservation Plans: one Plan in the Upper and one Plan in the Lower Arkansas Conservancy Districts and the remaining four for selected Arkansas Valley Conduit participants. Developing these plans will fulfill the implementation plan defined in the Regional Plan. The final task of this multi-faceted project is to enhance SECWCD's online Best Management Toolbox by providing case studies on metering of two towns in the basin as well as preparing a summary of water rates to post to the toolbox.

City of Brighton WaterSmart Software Outreach Program *South Platte Basin • \$47,750*

Brighton was awarded grant money to support a one year pilot outreach program designed to facilitate communication with 4,000 randomly selected single family residential accounts regarding their water use. This program will improve the City's understanding of their residential water use and reduce annual water demand. Brighton's water savings goal is to reduce summertime and overall water use by 8 to 10% by 2017. The City estimates this pilot program would amount to a savings of 900-1,100 acre-feet of annual groundwater production. The City plans to work with WaterSmart Software who will provide services such as Home Water Reports and access to a web-based customer portal that presents water data and conservation recommendations. Home owners will be able to understand their water use through the six Home Reports sent to them during the one year period as well as reduce their use by changing fixtures and/or behavior. WaterSmart will also provide the City with a web-based utility program that will allow them to monitor water use during this one year period.

Town of Monument Water Loss Control Audit *Arkansas Basin • \$22,573*

The Town of Monument, like Security Water District, has used their grant money to use the IWA/AWWA Water Audit Method published in the AWWA Manual of Practice M36 to conduct the first "top down approach" desktop water loss audit. After Monument staff & their consultants developed the preliminary audit, the results of the desktop audit were reviewed by an international water loss expert. The Town found that 13.6 million gallons are lost from the system per year, which is a relatively low level of water loss per service connection compared with other utilities. Recommendations have been made to the Town to see if they can work on reducing the level of water loss.

Public Education & Outreach Projects

The CWCB 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 2013-2014, the CWCB awarded two grants for public education & outreach projects to the following organizations.

Water Returns

Landscape Irrigation Evaluation & Reporting Program

\$29,900

Water Returns is a non-profit educational organization that provides assistance to three water providers in the Arkansas Basin who do not have the resources to devote to water efficiency. Water Returns received grant money to provide up to 60 landscape and/or irrigation consultations and evaluations over a two year period and assist water customers in the three utilities' service areas to achieve conservation objectives. The evaluations will provide the customers with the education to save water immediately and receive further assistance to install water efficient landscapes and/or irrigation systems. The evaluations and reports will assist the three utility partners in monitoring water use which can be useful in the entities' water conservation data (HB-1051) reporting.

The Keystone Center

Water & Growth Dialogue

\$45,000

Grant funding has allowed the Keystone Center to assemble a core working group made up of water providers, land use planners and developers, economic development professionals, conservationists and public officials to address the issue of land and water use planning. The group will identify and explore impactful strategies that, if achieved, help reduce water use in new development and redevelopment. Research is being worked on to identify, better understand and quantify land use planning and development approaches that have been successful in Colorado and similar places. The findings of this project will help CWCB staff understand this nexus better as it continues to work on statewide water planning projects.

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.

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.

During FY 2013-2014, no applications were submitted.

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 2013-2014, the CWCB did not receive an application for implementation projects, but does anticipate awarding future grants as more communities have Drought Management Plans approved by CWCB.

During FY 2013-2014, no applications were submitted.



COLORADO

**Colorado Water
Conservation Board**

Department of Natural Resources

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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