

ANNUAL REPORT

WATER

EFFICIENCY GRANT PROGRAM FISCAL YEAR 2015-2016



COLORADO

Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

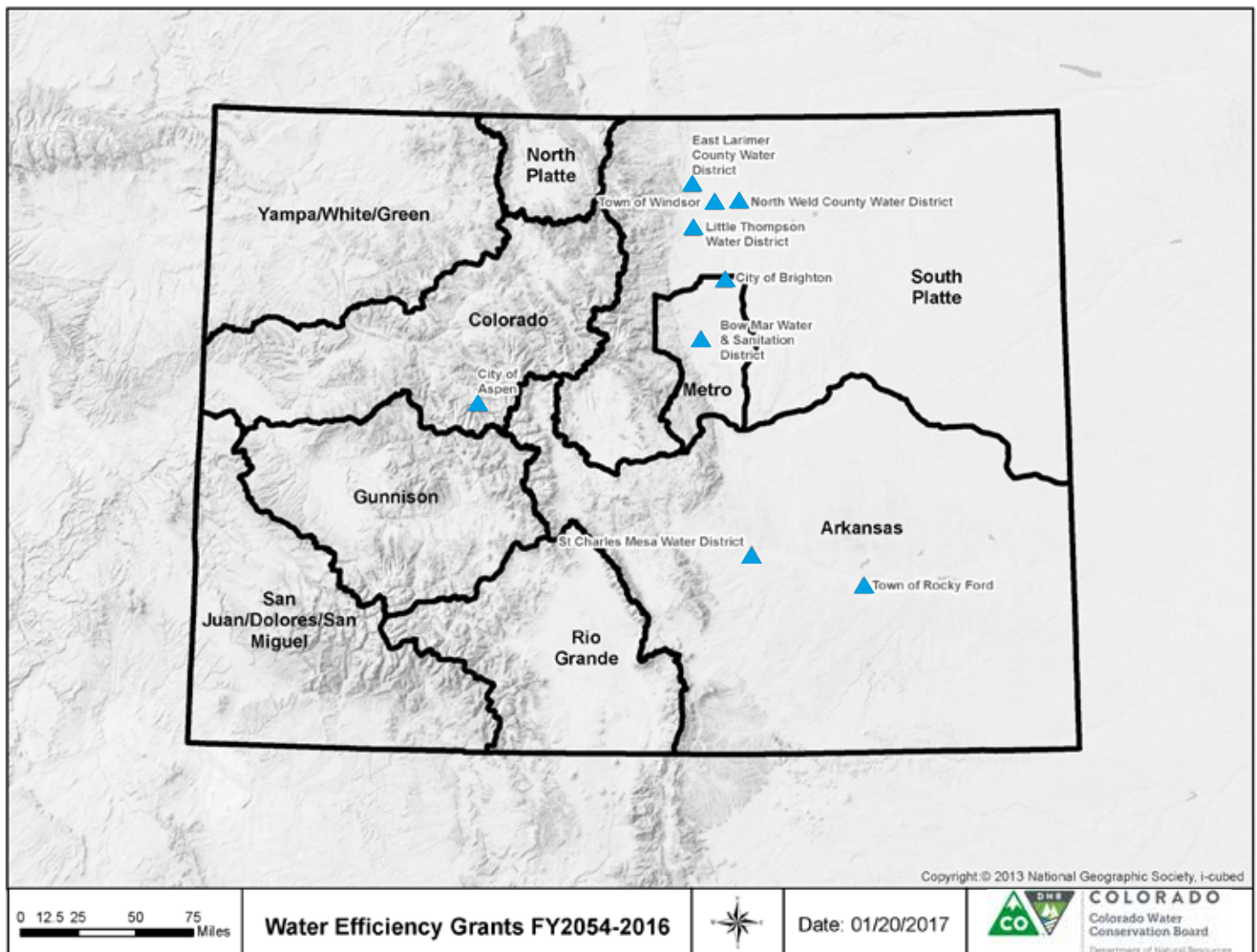
Overview

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 \$4.8 million has been awarded through this grant program.

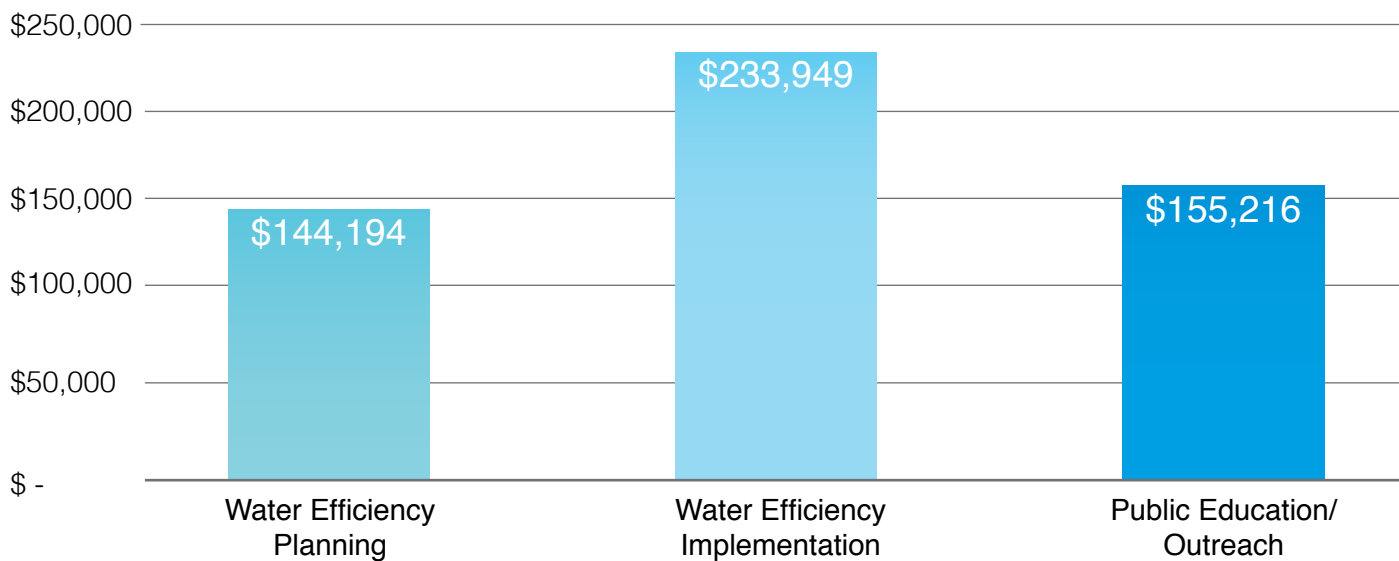
For Fiscal Year 2015-2016, the CWCB awarded over \$580,000 to sixteen projects in four river basins. Water Efficiency Grants are available in the following areas of water resource planning:

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

Number of Grants Awarded in FY15-16 Graph



Grant Amounts Awarded in FY2015-2016



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 2015-2016, the OWCDP awarded five water efficiency planning grants to the following entities:

| | | |
|------------------------------------|----------|--------------|
| City of Brighton | \$23,640 | South Platte |
| East Larimer County Water District | \$21,120 | South Platte |
| North Weld County Water District | \$36,149 | South Platte |
| Town of Rocky Ford | \$22,200 | Arkansas |
| Town of Windsor | \$41,084 | South Platte |

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 2015-2016, the CWCB awarded seven grants for implementation projects to the following entities:



City of Aspen

Water Efficient Landscaping Regulations Project – Colorado River Basin - \$42,515

The City of Aspen is developing water efficient landscape regulations to promote water conservation, prevent water waste and protect water quality. Aspen is anticipating the updated set of landscaping & irrigation system requirements and enforcement mechanisms will help reduce the impact of future water demands. This project also aligns with the goals of the Roaring Fork Watershed Regional Water Efficiency Plan. As a regional plan partner, the City will share information as well as work with other regional partners to adopt similar regulations across the watershed.



Bow Mar Water & Sanitation District **Water Meter Replacement Program – Metro Basin - \$36,601**

Bow Mar Water & Sanitation District is a master meter distributor of Denver Water and participates in various conservation programs identified in Denver Water's Municipal Water Efficiency Plan. The District purchased and installed more than 200 Automatic Meter Reading water meters. Replacing & upgrading existing meters enabled Bow Mar to detect leaks quicker as well as help the District monitor water usage more accurately and comprehensively evaluate future conservation tiered water rate structures.



Little Thompson Water District **Water Loss Control Audit – South Platte Basin - \$17,800**

The Little Thompson Water District (LTWD) carried out a system wide Water Loss Control Audit, using the AWWA M36 desktop water audit methodology. Additionally, LTWD hired Reinhard Sturm of Water Systems Optimization to review their findings & consult the District on next steps. Prior to the audit, LTWD experienced an estimated 15% "non-revenue" water loss. Through the audit, LTWD found that they lost about 265 million gallons from their system with 245 million gallons of that being due to leakage annually. Sturm and LTWD staff estimated that 102 million gallons could be addressed through further action while the remaining amount (143 million gallons) was unavoidable loss. More significantly, the audit also revealed annual costs of apparent & real losses was almost \$150,000 annually. Sturm provided specific recommendations to LTWD and if those are implemented, the District can avoid future costs of purchasing additional water supplies.



St Charles Mesa Water District **Water Meter Replacement Program – Arkansas River Basin - \$49,950**

St Charles Mesa Water District (SCMWD) is currently in the process of annexing Zinno Subdivision, located in eastern Pueblo County, into its service area. SCWMD has received funding to assist in the purchase of 100 Automated Meter Reading water meters to help improve the infrastructure in this small subdivision.



Parker Water & Sanitation District **Water Meter Replacement Program – South Platte Basin - \$50,000**

Parker Water & Sanitation District purchased and installed 500 Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) water meters in the summer/fall of 2016 replacing its Automated Meter Reading technology, which only read a meter once a month. A new AMI system will allow the District to acquire, store and analyze consumption data on an hourly basis. This potential water meter upgrade will help improve water loss accounting methods, quickly detect water leaks on the system and demand side, identify irrigation inefficiencies, help better manage water consumption and allow the District to more effectively project water demand.



Town of Telluride **Toilet Replacement Program – Southwest Basin - \$37,083**

The Town of Telluride purchased and installed 125 EPA Water Sense labeled toilets to replace older toilets at an affordable rental housing facility in the Town. The 1.28 gallons per flush toilets will replace units that were three gallon capacity toilets. The Town estimates this will help save them approximately three acre feet of water per year.



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 2015-2016, the CWCB awarded four grants for public education & outreach projects to the following organizations.



Colorado WaterWise

Water Loss Control Audit Trainings - \$49,999

Colorado WaterWise (CWW) developed a pilot AWWA M36 Water Audit Training Program. The concepts of non-revenue water (NRW) and water loss control were at the core of the training program. The program's mission was to teach water providers how to conduct an M36 water audit and interpret results. CWW hired Cavanaugh and Associates as the subject matter expert and training agent to execute the pilot training program. Trainings were held in Grand Junction, Frisco, Pueblo, Greeley and Denver in September 2015. 94 individuals attended the statewide trainings.



High Country Conservation Center

Summit Saves Program - \$31,945

The High Country Conservation Center (HC3) developed the "Summit Saves Water Conservation Program" to reduce water consumption in the Blue River Basin. This program looks for low cost ways to educate their public about water conservation measures using marketing research to identify messages that will resonate with their target audience and designing materials around the results. Summit Saves included launching a Water Warriors program in local schools that reached 230 6th graders. Resources and toolkits like self guided water audits & calculators were made available on the HC3 website to help homeowners and businesses measure and reduce water use. Finally, HC3 is planning to install water efficient fixtures in 50 homes and businesses. If all of the measures in this program are implemented, HC3 estimates there could be a 19% reduction or as much as 28,627 gallons per household of annual water use in the Blue River Basin.



Metro State University of Denver; One World One Water Center

Water Efficiency Film - \$46,534

The One World One Water Center at Metropolitan State University of Denver created a Water Efficiency & Urban Stewardship film produced by HaveyPro Cinema. The purpose of the film was to redefine and update how to talk about water efficiency and its role in water management in Colorado. The film addresses the big picture of water usage issues, and how they relate to individual use and responsibility while highlighting the cumulative impact of efficiency efforts and motivating viewer action and behavior change. The focus is urban water, mostly residential with some attention given to commercial aspects like hotels and/or offices. The film is set to debut during the January 2017 Colorado Water Congress Conference.



Metropolitan State University of Denver; One World One Water Center

Colorado Water Collaboratory - \$26,738

The Colorado Water Collaboratory project is a partnership between Metropolitan State University of Denver, Denver Water, Colorado Mesa University, the City of Grand Junction, the University of Colorado – Boulder and the City of Boulder. The purpose is to utilize the three university campuses as "living laboratories" for water efficiency for new technology testing, public awareness assessment and behavior change. The outcomes from the project include improved water use efficiencies at all three universities, transferring the technology and information from the campus to individual homes of students, faculty and university staff.



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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.

1313 Sherman Street Room 718 Denver, CO 80203

P 303.866.3441 F 303.866.4474

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



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