



One World One Water Center

Metropolitan State University of Denver | Denver Botanic Gardens

To: Ben Wade, Project Manager, Colorado Water Conservation Board
From: Nona Shipman, Assistant Director, One World One Water Center
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Colorado Water Collaboratory
Phase II
Partial Project Summary Report

Background: The Colorado Water Collaboratory (CWC) project began in 2016 with a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The intention of the CWC is to create “living laboratories” on campuses across Colorado to develop research, test new products, create learning opportunities for students and faculty, connect and collaborate with other universities, and share beyond campus. The goal of Phase I was to compare water use data on three different Colorado university campuses – Colorado Mesa University, University of Colorado – Boulder, and Metropolitan State University of Denver. Additionally, a survey was distributed to students at all three schools to collect information on water use behavior and perceptions. Lessons learned and the survey results from Phase I are being incorporated into Phase II.

Colorado Water Collaboratory Phase II: CWC Phase II includes University of Colorado – Boulder (CU-Boulder) and Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSU Denver). Unfortunately, Colorado Mesa University was unable to continue their participation in CWC at this time. Phase II aims to create action around sustainable water management on the two campuses, outlined through the below six tasks. Project work began in Summer of 2018 and will continue until completion in the Winter of 2020. Consultant, Brendle Group, was contracted to help lead Tasks 1 through Task 3, providing leadership in facilitation of the water action planning process and plan development for implementation at the campus and assisting OWOW in scaling and translating results.

- Task 1: Stakeholder Engagement & Workshop
- Task 2: Water Profile & Baseline
- Task 3: Explore Opportunities
- Task 4: Water Action Plan Development
- Task 5: Plan Implementation
- Task 6: Translating Beyond the Collaboratory

Completed in December 2018, MSU Denver and CU-Boulder have identified their campus water stakeholders, the first step of Task 1. Stakeholders included campus facility planners and staff, faculty, sustainability managers, water providers, and representatives from the CWCB. Following identification of key stakeholders, each school has hosted the Task 1 stakeholder workshop or work session to gather input and feedback from this diverse group on all stages of the water action plan development. Auraria Campus pursued the outlined water action planning workshop format. Feedback provided ranged from previous experiences with water projects on campus, the current state of water use on campus (both indoors and outdoors), potential barriers and limitations to water efficiency and conservation, future campus development and redevelopment, goal identification and characterization, and water efficiency or related strategy opportunities for each campus. The workshops were helpful in further identifying

campus needs, potential challenges, as well as opening lines of communication between different groups on and off campus in their role and expertise in sustainable water management. For example, MSU Denver is located on Auraria Campus that is home to four institutions: MSU Denver, University of Colorado – Denver, Community College of Denver, and Auraria Higher Education Center (AHEC). This was the first time that many of the stakeholders identified from all four institutions were in the same room together. CU-Boulder held a work session with key stakeholders to begin the dialogue of coordinated water efforts on campus. This led to the formal formation of a water working group.

Additionally, Task 2 water profiles and baseline data have been collected and analyzed for Auraria Campus, including MSU Denver. Phase I water use data was referenced as a starting point for this task. Additional baseline information and data was gathered from Denver Water, Auraria Campus' water provider, facilities staff, Energy CAP, and the on-campus group, Auraria Sustainable Campus Program. Data gathering was primarily led by a graduate intern for the Auraria Sustainable Campus Program. CU Boulder made progress on Task 2 water profiles and baseline data as well, including disclosing access to Energy CAP and review of water data disclosed in AASHE STARS sustainability scorecard. It was determined that further data analysis and baseline establishment would be led internally by the water working group for this project.

Phase II next steps will be to use what was learned at the stakeholder workshop and work session to explore opportunities at each campus to create action around water. The key stakeholders will continue to be engaged in this process in addition to more directly incorporate students and faculty voices into the project.

Phase II will also incorporate a related effort funded by the CWCB, activating Colorado's Water Plan with student driven innovation through a student competition. Planning for the competition will begin in the Spring of 2019 by engaging with faculty and students to lead competition planning. The goal of the competition will be to empower students to design innovative water projects using Colorado's Water Plan in creative ways to further illustrate the importance of water in every field of study.

Future goals for CWC Phase II are to create a Water Action Plan for each campus with practical and pragmatic steps to implement water project(s) that will meet the needs of campus stakeholders while also incorporating students, faculty, and communities surrounding the campuses. Beyond Phase II, MSU Denver and CU-Boulder are hoping to see the CWC focus on the water-energy nexus and to invite more Colorado schools to join the Colorado Water Collaboratory.

Thank you for funding this important work.

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