



## Western Resource Advocates

Colorado Water Conservation Board | Final Progress Report

P.O #: POGG1,PDAA,202000002583

### Removing barriers: building capacity to implement critical water conservation and efficiency programs.

Final Progress Report

06.30.22 to 12.31.22

Western Resources Advocates (WRA) is pleased to submit the attached invoice and near final progress report of work performed to date.

During this time period, WRA successfully:

- Published and conducted outreach on WRA's whitepaper on "[Exploring Policy Options for Expanding Landscape & Irrigation Professional Certification in Colorado](#)";
- Disseminated the results of a landscape professional survey to garner information on barriers and opportunities for certification in the landscape industry; and
- Led a laundry-to-landscape subcommittee and proposed updates Regulation 86 that will streamline L2L systems for cities, counties, graywater installers, and homeowners.

#### Tasks Performed to Date Since Near Final Report

TASKS	
Task	% Complete
<b><u>Task 1. Education, Resource and Information Sharing</u></b>  WRA and Water Demand Management (WDM) completed this task in January 2021, as described in the 75% Report.	100%

<p><b><u>Task 2. Grant Writing Workshops</u></b></p> <p>As described in the 75% report, due to ongoing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, WRA was not able to provide grant training workshops as part of this grant. In consultation with, and agreement from, Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) staff we decided to dedicate the remaining funds under this section towards direct community support for program implementation, as well as targeting communities to provide support to update their Water Efficiency Plans (Task 3).</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p><b><u>Task 3. Implementation Support</u></b></p> <p>WRA and Water Demand Management (WDM) completed this task in September 2021, as described in prior reporting.</p>	<p>100%</p>
<p><b><u>Task 4. Metrics of Success</u></b></p> <p>WRA and Water Demand Management (WDM) completed this task in January 2021, as described in the 75% Report.</p>	<p>100%</p>

<p><b>Task 5. Landscape Professional Certification Stakeholder Coalition</b></p> <p>During the grant period, WRA designed, published, and disseminated a whitepaper on <a href="#">“Exploring Policy Options for Expanding Landscape &amp; Irrigation Professional Certification in Colorado”</a>. The white paper provides a brief overview of landscape and irrigation professional certification, outlines the certifications that are currently available in Colorado, and details the 10 other states that have developed state-level landscape and/or irrigation professional certification or licensure programs. Brief case studies outline lessons learned in each state and include analysis of elements that may apply in Colorado. The paper also explores four potential policy pathways forward for Colorado to expand landscape professional certification ranging from maintaining the status quo to developing a statewide certification/licensure program.</p> <p>WRA also conducted a survey of local landscape and irrigation professionals to garner information on how the landscape professional industry views certification programs. The survey, which was offered in both English and Spanish, included questions about existing certification levels, training experience, knowledge about certification, and barriers to obtaining certification. The survey was disseminated widely via WRA channels and through the Landscape Professional Certification steering committee, Colorado WaterWise, AWWA Rocky Mountain Conservation Committee, the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) program, Association of Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC), and the CO Water &amp; Land Use Planning Alliance, among others. The survey garnered 266 responses and included multiple choice and written responses (See attachment: 2023.03.02 Landscape &amp; Irrigation Pro Survey Results). Notably, when asked, “Would you support the establishment of a statewide certification or licensure program for landscape and irrigation professionals in Colorado?”, 62% of respondents said yes, 29% said they were not sure and needed to know more, and 8% said no. Preliminary results from this survey were shared during a presentation at ProGreen and final, detailed results were shared with the Landscape Professional Steering Committee.</p> <p>WRA also organized a session at the Annual ProGreen conference in Denver on February 1<sup>st</sup> focused on “Policy Avenues to Expand Landscape &amp; Irrigation Professional Certification in Colorado”. Panelists included Chelsea Benjamin with WRA, Deryn Davidson with Colorado State University Extension, Rick Schultz with Castle Rock Water, Melissa Emdin with the Association of Landscape Contractors of Colorado, and Bob Howey with Irrigation Analysis. WRA presented key findings from the policy paper and survey described above and panelists responded to a number of audience questions.</p> <p>WRA organized and led to two Steering Committee meetings during the grant period and is organizing our next meeting in the coming weeks. The Steering Committee provided guidance and feedback on both the whitepaper and the survey and is in nearly unanimous agreement that the most effective policy</p>	<p>100%</p>
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<p>path forward for landscape certification in Colorado will be a statewide certification/licensure program. WRA is now working to identify and gather Steering Committee feedback on additional research needs and stakeholder engagement critical to the consideration of a state-level program. WRA is also working to expand the Steering Committee to include more diverse perspectives from the landscape industry and academia.</p> <p>Beyond the scope of this grant, WRA plans to continue supporting efforts to expand landscape and irrigation professional certification in Colorado through the Steering Committee, outreach and education opportunities, and additional research.</p>	
<p><b><u>Task 6. Graywater Programmatic Toolkit</u></b></p> <p>During the reporting period, WRA actively participated in Colorado Department of Public Health and the Environment's (CDPHE) Regulation 86 (Reg 86) Stakeholder Meetings. WRA attended monthly stakeholder meetings and is leading a separate sub-committee focused on streamline Regulation 86 specifically for simple, Laundry-to-Landscape (L2L) systems. Over the course of five subcommittee meetings and several 1-on-1 discussions, the sub-committee developed recommended L2L language for inclusion by CDPHE. Recommendations included: definitions related to L2L systems, a L2L graywater sub-category in the regulation, updated methodology for calculating laundry machine flows, updated specifications for mulch basin criteria and sizing, and updated operations &amp; maintenance manual standards for L2L systems. These recommendations were then presented to the larger Reg 86 Stakeholder meeting and WRA anticipates all recommended language will be included in CDPHE staff's updated Reg 86 draft for consideration by the Water Quality Control Commission. The L2L Subcommittee is now shifting focus towards developing a toolkit of guidance materials to support cities, counties, installers and homeowners in the implementation of L2L programs and systems. Guidance materials currently under development include an operations &amp; maintenance manual modeled after a Bernalillo County, NM L2L manual, design criteria guidance modeled after guidance developed by the City of Golden, updated Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper Graywater Module training curriculum for Colorado (under development by Doug Pushard), and a clearinghouse of all existing graywater ordinances in Colorado that will be updated regularly. WRA has confirmed that all materials will be made publicly available on the CDPHE graywater webpage. The subcommittee has also discussed conducting outreach and education on L2L systems and available resources at conferences, meetings, and events once Regulation 86 has been amended.</p> <p>Additionally, during this reporting period, WRA supported 4CORE and La Plata County in drafting their graywater ordinance. The draft is currently under review by La Plata County staff. Given the Reg 86 amendment process and the fact that La Plata County is in the process of establishing an internal county public health department (to take the place of San Juan Basin Public Health),</p>	<p>100%</p>

<p>the County may elect to wait to adopt graywater standards until 2024. Additionally, despite some grant contracting delays, Denver Public Health &amp; Environment are currently launching their graywater implementation program and WRA will be consulting with DPHE on the development of best practices worksheets and incentive program design. Worksheets will be created as templates and be made publicly available through the guidance documents toolkit on the CDPHE website so that other agencies can use them.</p> <p>Finally, WRA presented on the Regulation 86 amendment process and opportunities to expand graywater reuse at the Colorado WaterWise Symposium on October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022.</p> <p>Beyond the scope of this grant, WRA looks forward to continuing to support communities to adopt graywater ordinances and to expand graywater usage throughout the State.</p>	
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