

Making a Splash in Western U.S. Municipal Water Efficiency

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Introduction

Western Resource Advocates (WRA) is a non-profit organization that works at the local and state levels to protect the western interior states' land, air, and water resources. Contributions were made to three different projects focusing on water conservation with the Healthy Rivers Program at WRA:

- Tap Fee Guide
- Colorado Turf Replacement Programs
- State Water Policy Database

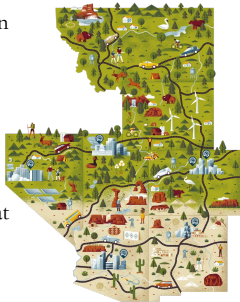


Figure 1: A map depicting the western interior states (WRA).

Colorado Turf Replacement Programs

Turf Replacement Programs throughout Colorado encourage home and building owners to convert their high-water use grass turf into low-water use native grasses or water-wise landscapes.



Figure 3a: High-water use grass turf yard in Louisville, Colorado. Courtesy of waterwiseyards.org.



Figure 3b: Converted water-wise landscape yard in Louisville, Colorado. Courtesy of waterwiseyards.org.

Conclusions

Project Specifics:

- Updated the tap fee guide case studies to include new charges and reduced fees for five cities in Colorado.
- Updated the Turf Replacement Spreadsheet with specific information on turf conversion programs throughout Colorado municipalities.
- Compiled a memo of information explaining the benefits and challenges of utilizing artificial turf grass.
- Updated the State Water Policy Database with the new Colorado Turf Replacement Program HB 22-1151.

Project Takeaways:

- Importance of policy work in the sciences.
- Conservation changes need policy work along with state and local programs for a difference to be made.

Tap Fee Guide

A Guide To Designing Conservation-Oriented Water System Development Charges, or tap fee guide, is an important publication for municipalities in the state of Colorado who want to offer water conservation incentive opportunities for developers.

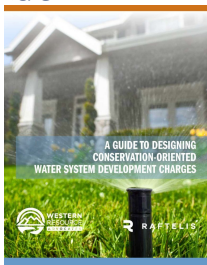


Figure 2: Tap fee guide publication cover (WRA).

State Water Policy Database

A publicly accessible database that is available to anyone interested in learning more about state policies focused on water conservation.

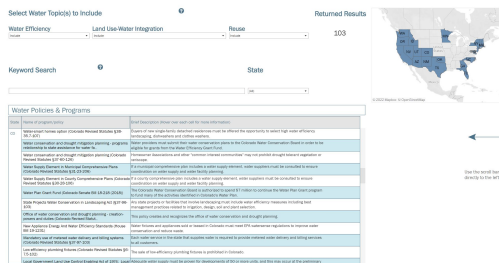


Figure 4: Screenshot of the State Water Policy Database (WRA).

Acknowledgments

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Pikes Peak Community College & UNAVCO acknowledge that, with respect, the lands that our campuses occupy are the unceded ancestral and traditional homelands of the **Lipan Apache** (li-PUHN uh-PA-chee), **Arapaho** (uh-RAH-pah-HO), **Cheyenne** (shy-AN), and **Ute** (oo-TEE) nations. We further recognize that this workshop is held on the unceded land of **Dak'hóta** (DAH-koh-TAH) nation.

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