

 DENVER WATER

PLANNING FOR OUR FUTURE



SUSTAINABILITY GUIDE
2021-2025

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Sustainability is at the heart of everything Denver Water does. It has been our responsibility to sustain the growth, development, and economic, social and physical health of the Denver-metro area for more than 100 years. To meet this challenge, we developed and sustained a vast, complex water infrastructure system that reaches Denver from the heart of Colorado's forests and mountains.

However, the concept of sustainability involves more than developing and maintaining our water supply system and delivering safe drinking water to our customers. As we look forward to our next 100 years, we face numerous challenges that merit rethinking and expanding what the term sustainability means to us. We will be increasingly challenged by climate change, regulatory uncertainty, economic and social changes, natural and perhaps manmade disasters, and other unknown events. In 2020, we learned just how unexpected some challenges can be, as the COVID-19 pandemic fundamentally changed how we operate on a day-to-day basis while we continued delivering safe water to our customers.

We have updated our Sustainability Plan since its initial rollout in 2016. The newest plan continues to represent the evolution of Denver Water's sustainability ethic and details how we will integrate it into our business operations. Since our inaugural plan, we have made important progress in reducing our dependence on fossil fuel, increasing our own inventory of renewable energy sources, limiting waste, and reducing the energy we require to operate across the organization. Few achievements represent this progress better than the redevelopment of our 35-acre Operations Complex, now a Colorado showcase for sustainability and innovative design.

Sustainability for the next 100 years will require continued reinvention, resilience and adaptability in everything we do. It means long-range planning based on uncertainty. It means ensuring that the development and collection of water supplies do not degrade aquatic habitats, and partnering with the federal government, private landowners and other stakeholders to protect the ecological health of watersheds that supply our water.

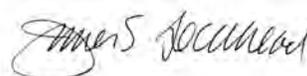
It means developing and protecting flows in the urban reach of the South Platte River. It means working to protect and enhance the High Line Canal as an ecological and recreational resource for the metro area. It means promoting the most efficient use of water throughout our service area, including expanding the use of nonpotable water. It means partnering with our neighbors regionally to achieve better management of water resources. It means scaling our systems to allow for nimble and flexible operations in an era of climate change and extreme patterns of rainfall and drought.

It means protecting the security of our infrastructure and facilities, and being prepared for emergencies. And it means operating our infrastructure, facilities and buildings in ways that demonstrate the most efficient water uses, that generate the most and use the least amount of energy, and that promote the health and wellbeing of our employees.

Given this expanded ethic of sustainability, we will develop and implement this updated plan as a further commitment not only to today's customers, but also to our customers over the next 100 years and beyond. We have much work to do. This plan will guide us in implementing the best industry-leading practices in our operations. It will keep us accountable to our commitment to sustainability and will be a critical tool in our journey to becoming the best water utility in the nation.



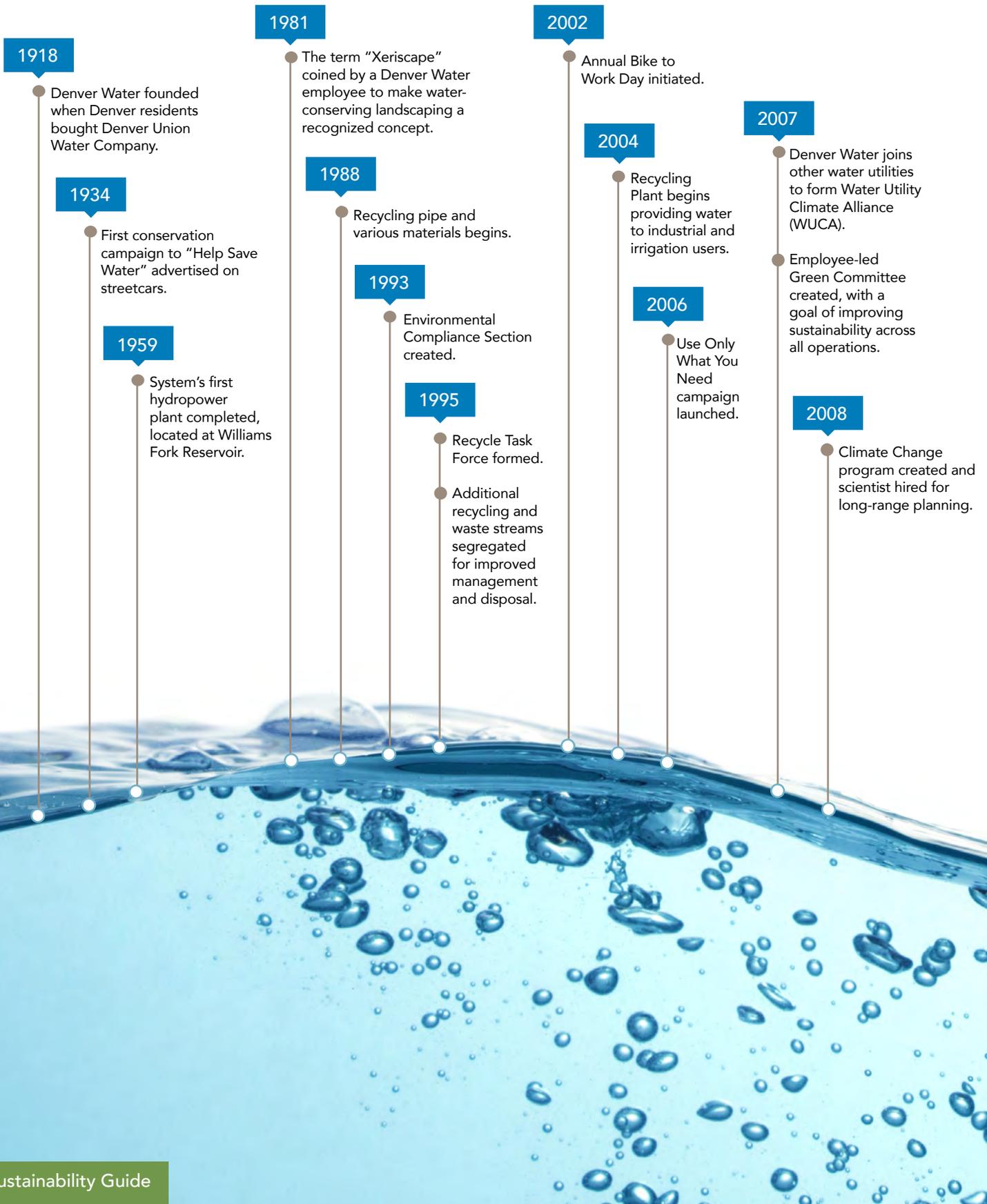
Gary M. Reiff, President, Board of Water Commissioners



James S. Lochhead, CEO/Manager

Our Sustainability Timeline

Denver Water's efforts in sustainability and stewardship



-
- 2009**
- Regional Transportation District bus and light rail passes issued to staff.
 - Carpool intranet page initiated.
- 2010**
- First annual greenhouse gas inventory completed.
- 2011**
- Sustainability incorporated into Strategic Plan.
- 2012**
- Colorado River Cooperative Agreement (CRCA) completed with West Slope entities.
- 2014**
- Colorado River System Conservation Agreement (CRSCA) completed.
- 2015**
- Regional Transportation District and staff increase bus access to Operations Complex.
- 2016**
- Sustainability manager hired.
 - Compost introduced at Denver Water facilities.
 - GoTober commuting challenge and carpooling incentives initiated.
- 2017**
- Energy analyst and sustainability program assistant hired.
 - Hydropower research pilot begins testing an array of 10 turbines along South Boulder Canal.
 - Compost introduced at treatment plants and remaining Operations Complex facilities.
 - First Sustainability Guide published.
 - Green bonds developed and released to strengthen stewardship and partnerships.
- 2019**
- Net-zero energy Administration Building constructed with highly efficient design and 1.3 megawatts of onsite solar.
- 2020**
- Denver Water facilities are awarded Gold status in the Colorado Environmental Leadership Program.
 - Operations Complex Redevelopment completed as a LEED-certified campus.

Environmental Stewardship

Denver Water serves one-quarter of the state's population with less than 2% of all water used in the state. And Colorado's population is expected to nearly double by 2050. Everyone is starting to think about resources, and Denver Water wants to continue to lead the industry and the community with best practices.

Denver Water has taken a leadership role in understanding and promoting sustainability. Our Environmental Stewardship Statement identifies our guiding principles for environmental stewardship and sustainability:

- **Best Practices and Compliance with Environmental Requirements** – Denver Water will comply with all applicable environmental laws, regulations and standards, and will develop and adhere to environmental best practices and performance standards in order to achieve environmental sustainability beyond minimum legal requirements.
- **Leading by Example** – Denver Water will be a leader and engage with environmental communities, government, industry and academic research agencies in order to learn and further develop our environmental stewardship programs and share our experience and expertise. We will develop progressive positions on evolving environmental issues impacting the interests of the organization and our customers.
- **Healthy Built Environment** – Denver Water is committed to workforce safety, health, wellness, and quality of work-life through buildings and grounds integrated with the natural environment and promotion of indoor environmental quality.
- **Responsible Operations** – Denver Water is committed to the responsible management and sustainable growth and operation of all our assets, including land, forest, water and other natural resources in our control. We recognize the impacts to the environment from our operations and will take active measures to minimize this footprint. Denver Water will continue to improve environmental best practice standards and will include such standards in procurement and contract processes. Employees will work to recognize and resolve environmental impacts within Denver Water facilities, operations and policies.
- **Waste Diversion and Pollution Prevention** – Denver Water is steadfast in our commitment to responsible solid and electronic waste management. This includes reuse, recycling and compost programs, and the careful and proper use, tracking, storage and disposal of hazardous materials.
- **Climate Adaptation and Mitigation** – Denver Water is a nationally recognized leader in understanding and preparing for the complex challenges of climate change. A multi-faceted approach focuses on partnerships, knowledge generation and transfer, research, long-range planning, and operationalizing adaptation practices across the organization. Denver Water will minimize our own climate impacts by measuring and tracking goals for the reduction of climate changing emissions, including updating an annual greenhouse gas inventory and incorporating climate adaptation and mitigation into current and future operations, plans and policies.
- **Environmental Management System** – Annually, with internal and external stakeholder input, the Environmental Compliance Section will review the Environmental Management System and Denver Water's compliance. The review will assess existing environmental objectives, performance standards and best practices. Based on review, the section will make updates and recommend changes in Denver Water's operations to achieve better performance.
- **Environmental Education and Awareness** – Employee training will include a review of the commitments, related policies, introduction to the Environmental Management System and best sustainability practices.



Who Are We?

As a major water provider in the West, Denver Water views itself as having a special responsibility to the environment. It is a responsibility we take very seriously. We incorporate it into both our strategic thinking and daily operations.

We view ourselves as stewards of the environment. It is an ethic and value that runs deep in our organization. It is inherent in everything we do because our infrastructure is not just our pipes and reservoirs – it is also millions of acres of Colorado forests and thousands of miles of rivers and streams.

Our environmental commitment also stems from the preciousness of the resource with which we work. Water is essential to making Colorado beautiful and to ensuring the quality of life we enjoy. Yet it is scarce in our state. And demands for it are intensifying.

With that understanding, Denver Water's highest responsibility remains to serve 1.5 million people today and a growing population in the future. We strive to do so while minimizing our environmental footprint and working collaboratively with our neighbors to protect and enhance supplies for agriculture, riparian habitat, stream health and many other needs.

Denver Water is committed to continuously improving our operations while remaining responsible stewards of our natural environment and contributing to a vibrant community.

Sustainability in Denver Water operations is any effort or improvement that allows for a better and longer existence. In other words, sustainability is any change in any employee's workday that makes our systems more efficient and healthier for our ecosystems, our staff and the community.



Sustainability Program and Greenhouse Gas Inventory

Every Denver Water employee makes decisions that have environmental, social and financial impacts. In 2016 Denver Water hired a sustainability manager to internalize, systemize and track sustainability within our operations. Developing a Sustainability Program with high-level sustainability strategies and goals for the organization provides clear direction to employees and supports sustainability in their everyday work responsibilities.

In 2017, a sustainability program assistant and energy management analyst joined the team to support education and outreach to staff and improve the metrics and reporting of operational utility consumption and waste streams.

Denver Water participates with the Climate Registry, a nonprofit collaboration among North American entities that sets consistent standards to calculate, verify and publicly report greenhouse gas emissions into a single registry. Since 2008, we have been tracking and reporting our greenhouse gas footprint so we can find ways to reduce our impact.

DENVER WATER GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORY



*Metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent is a measure used to calculate the global warming potential of greenhouse gases.



Environmental Compliance and Environmental Management System

The Environmental Compliance Section at Denver Water is responsible for organization-wide adherence to air, water and environmental regulations, safe waste recycling and disposal, and required inspections. This team visits Denver Water facilities and sites and meets with operational teams to develop standard operating procedures.

An Environmental Management System, implemented by our Environmental Compliance team, manages environmental commitments and obligations at Denver Water. This system inventories the aspects and environmental impacts of our operations to ensure they are being effectively controlled.

Both the Environmental Management System and the Sustainability Guide serve as a gap analysis to identify all our impacts and best practices, and what areas we still must cover.

Environmental Management System (EMS) 2019 Highlights



26
Percent reduction in energy usage due to LED lighting retrofits at 11 facilities.



12,648
Pounds of metal returned to manufacturer for processing into new meters.



100
Gallons of glyphosate weed killer eliminated.



194
Pounds of oil-based paint recycled.

Climate Change Planning and Integrated Resource Plan

Climate change is a new and complex challenge for water utilities. There is a wide range of future climate predictions for Colorado, which makes supply planning difficult. Yet Denver Water is a leader in addressing and incorporating climate change. In 2008, Denver Water hired a climate scientist and brought climate change into resource planning. We are working with national climate agencies and universities to best understand how climate conditions may change in our area. We also are promoting the need for better science, and better modeling and uncertainty planning, in order to meet the needs of water providers.

In preparing for multiple scenarios in our Integrated Resource Plan, we continue to build a resilient system that ensures service of a reliable supply of high-quality water to our customers. Our new Integrated Resource Plan details the possible water-system effects of climate change and will help us decide on future water supply projects. We will use the plan to guide our decisions related to our water system over the next 50 years.

Green Committee

Denver Water has always had passionate employees, and years prior to the Sustainability Program, a volunteer committee came together to focus on environmental and sustainable improvements at Denver Water. The Green Committee inspires environmentally responsible behavior, stewardship and sustainability in the lives of employees through education, outreach and advocacy in order to build a strong and connected community. The Green Committee also partners with the Sustainability Program to support best practices and improvements across the organization.



Operations Complex Redevelopment project

At Denver Water, we know our operations are inextricably linked to the environment. We take this responsibility very seriously and designed our new Operations Complex with resource efficiency and environmental health as priorities.

The fleet services, warehouse, trades and meter shop facilities were completed in summer 2017. The Administration Building and parking garage were completed in 2019, followed by the final conversion of a historic pump station into a conference center and renovation of campus landscaping in 2020.

Sustainable building features include:



Natural daylighting in all buildings through large windows and skylights.

100% LED lighting with daylight harvesting.



Passive treatment of stormwater through rain gardens and detention ponds.



Robust building envelopes that include triple-pane glass and extra insulation.



Radiant heating and cooling from a central utility plant that uses water from a large water pipeline for preheating and precooling (similar to geothermal).



Automatic window blinds in the Administration Building for heat and glare control.



Centralized waste for garbage, recycling and compost.



Controlled outlets in nonoperations buildings that turn off computer monitors and other unneeded equipment when the space is not occupied.



Rainwater capture for irrigation.

NET-ZERO ENERGY

for the Administration Building (offset with 1.3 megawatts of onsite solar).



Blackwater capture with onsite treatment and reuse for toilet flushing and irrigation.

Where Are We Now?

12

Sustainability is not new to Denver Water. Even if it were not always known by that name, stewardship of the environment, extensive financial and future planning, and focus on the welfare of both employees and customers have always been priorities in our goal of becoming the best water utility in the nation.

The following goals have been met for the organization:

Water

- Water reuse and the concept of One Water is integral to Denver Water operations, including recycled water options for customers and an onsite blackwater treatment system at the main Operations Complex.
- Organizational water usage is reported against site budgets, which are set based on facility and grounds size, occupants and use type.
- All major irrigated sites on Denver Water property have central control systems.

Energy

- Organizational energy portfolio is tracked and reported continually, with a goal of continued energy neutrality.
- Renewable energy, including hydroelectric generation and solar photovoltaic systems, is in place at nine sites, with 26.5 megawatts of capacity and average production of 60,000 MWh.
- Innovative efficiency systems, including thermal heat recovery at the main Operations Complex, are used to drive down demand.
- Treatment plants continue to adjust operating hours and processes to conserve energy when possible.

Land Use and Ecosystems

- Denver Water supports the Coalition for Upper South Platte in its planning and restoration of Horse Creek to reduce sediment loading into the Strontia Springs Reservoir by 50,000 tons per year.
- The From Forests to Faucets partnership with the U.S. Forest Service includes fuels reduction, restoration and wildfire prevention projects in priority watersheds.
- For more than 30 years, Denver Water's partnership with the Colorado State Forest Service has helped maintain the health and resiliency of forests on Denver Water properties.

Materials

- Denver Water works to close loops and divert waste continuously, including providing shred bins for direct paper recycling, returning waste material to manufacturer for reuse when possible, and donating electronics before recycling.
- Road base material used to access Denver Water's raw water collection system is reused by the U.S. Forest Service, reducing landfill waste.
- Compost and recycling bins are located throughout facilities, where hauling is available, reducing landfill waste.

People

- Denver Water supports employee committees that focus on inclusivity, wellness, and environmental activism.
- Denver Water's smoke-free campus includes smoking cessation programming at all facilities.
- Employees receive a transit pass to encourage alternative transportation opportunities.

Infrastructure and Assets

- All operating facilities are recognized with Gold status in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Environmental Leadership Program.
- Organizational green cleaning standards have been developed for all facilities.
- Sustainability goals, standards, and commitments were integrated into Denver Water's Engineering Standards and Capital Project Construction Standards.



Planning For Our Future

We are proud of the innovation, determination and environmental consideration that Denver Water has always led with, but we know that there are always improvements to be made. In the pages that follow, we chart our course and lay out a set of stretch goals, standards and commitments we aspire to. This is an inventory and overview of the best practices Denver Water operates within. It showcases both our successes and trials at advancement. We have analyzed and scrutinized projections for sustaining our operations into the future, with our customers and the environment at the forefront of this planning. As we work toward these goals with our commitments and standards, we will see areas for improvement that will become new goals.

Framework

This document includes Denver Water's best practices and commitments, broken into six resource areas. Many times, these best practices create positive change in more than one resource area. In order to reach the goals, standards and commitments have been established and will be quantified.

Goal: A goal is a metric set for improvement that is both tracked and reported. Goals are organization-wide resource reductions with measurable metrics.

"Increase Denver Water energy portfolio by one megawatt of renewable energy by 2025."

Standard: A standard is an internal policy, a third-party standard or a guiding document that goes above and beyond standard work. Standards are organization-wide standards that govern our operations.

"Develop policy with regional and state agencies that allows and encourages 'One Water' implementation."

Commitment: A commitment is a best practice that contributes to efficiency or resource conservation.

"Account for value of sustainability in scoring procurement proposals (RFPs)."

Key to Our Future

WATER



WATER USE



WATER SUPPLY



WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT

ENERGY AND TRANSPORTATION



ENERGY USE AND SUPPLY



TRANSPORTATION

LAND AND ECOSYSTEMS



LAND USE AND ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP

MATERIALS



MATERIALS MANAGEMENT



PROCUREMENT

DENVER WATER PEOPLE



INSPIRED PEOPLE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASSETS



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS



ASSETS

Water

Creating a culture of conservation in Denver dates back to 1936 when Denver Water put messaging on street trolleys to educate the community about saving water. The modes of transportation have changed, but the message remains the same, as does our operational commitment to using this precious resource wisely. Denver Water ensures a continuous supply of water to 25% of Colorado's population with only 2% of the state's water supply. We continue to explore further conservation opportunities through technical, policy and behavioral adaptation.



WATER USE

Goals:

- Reduce Denver Water facility irrigation by meeting LEED standards for low water use by 2025.
- Reduce Denver Water facility water use by meeting LEED fixture standards by 2025.

Commitments:

- Include water-saving fixtures and applicable irrigation controls on all new construction and renovation.
- Continuously improve water budget and reporting to include Denver Water facilities outside of Denver Water service area.
- Include community education about leading-edge water best practices at all Denver Water facilities with public interface.



WATER SUPPLY

Standard:

- Develop policy with regional and state agencies that allows and encourages "One Water" implementation.



WATER QUALITY AND TREATMENT

Goal:

- Install real-time watershed water quality monitoring units at 15 sites by 2025.

Commitment:

- Remove customer-owned lead service lines from distribution system through current Lead Reduction Program and when encountered.

Energy and Transportation

As the oldest and largest water utility in Colorado, Denver Water is fully aware of the water-energy nexus, and extremely focused on conserving resources. The energy needed to collect, store, treat and distribute water is continuously decreasing because of policy and behavioral changes, technologically efficient upgrades, and generation of renewable hydropower within our operations.



ENERGY USE AND SUPPLY

Goals:

- Reduce organization-wide greenhouse gas emissions 50% from 2015 baseline by 2025.
- Maintain energy neutrality while decreasing energy use (electricity and natural gas) 10% from baseline (2015-2019 average annual use) by 2025.
- Increase Denver Water energy portfolio by 1 MW of renewable energy by 2025.

Commitments:

- Install occupancy/vacancy sensors on all new construction and renovation.
- Upgrade to LED on all new and replacement lighting.
- Offset at least 50% of energy use with renewable energy generation, preferable on-site, with all new construction and major renovation projects.
- Continue to improve hydroelectric system operations with holistic integration of water resources, maintenance planning and contractual obligations.
- Maximize participation and benefits available through demand-side management programs, utility incentives and external efficiency sources when applicable.
- Continue to participate in the Carbon Footprint Registry program to qualify Denver Water's greenhouse gas inventory for higher certification.



TRANSPORTATION

Goals:

- Update Denver Water idling policy to include idle-free campuses by 2022.

Standards:

- Uphold Denver Water idling policy with continued annual reporting and goals for reduction.

Commitments:

- Monitor all fleet vehicles with software for anti-idling and speed-limit fuel efficiency.

Land and Ecosystems

Denver Water’s collection system covers about 2.5 million acres of land. We are committed to supporting and improving natural ecosystems and using resources wisely. We work with multiple federal agencies, nongovernmental organizations, private landowners and other Front Range water providers to identify and prioritize at-risk watersheds that will be the focus of protection measures, and to preserve, restore and ensure the health of watersheds. We work with mountain communities daily to proactively identify ways to operate our system so that flows are provided for rivers and streams.



LAND USE AND ECOSYSTEM STEWARDSHIP

Goals:

- **Convert 185 acres of the High Line Canal land to green infrastructure to benefit public recreation and to treat approximately 200 acre-feet (66 million gallons) of stormwater, by 2025.**
- **Develop drought-tolerant, pollinator-supporting landscaping on five Denver Water properties by 2025.**

Standards:

- Uphold federal and state standards regarding the detection, monitoring and prevention of aquatic nuisance species within Denver Water’s collection system.
- Uphold state standards regarding detection, monitoring and eradication of noxious weeds on Denver Water properties through an integrated management plan.

Commitments:

- Create opportunities for innovation in watershed health through collaborations and research with the National Western Stock Show Complex redevelopment.
- Support the assessment and implementation of an additional 90,000 acres, both National Forest and private lands, into the From Forests to Faucets Partnership, for forest restoration and wildfire risk reduction projects.
- Develop a watershed inventory, assessment, prioritization and plan for our South Collection System.
- Develop a 20-year plan to reduce sediment loading in Strontia Springs Reservoir.
- Increase survivability of revegetation efforts in the Hayman burn scar by selecting more resilient species and using innovative planting methodologies.

Materials

Our operations are focused on closing loops and responsibly managing waste streams. Denver Water's teams work tirelessly within our operations to safely recycle or dispose of operational waste with a priority to minimize the use of hazardous materials. Additionally, our compost, recycling and e-waste programs are successfully diverting waste from the landfill.



MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

Goals:

- Reduce municipal solid waste going to landfill 25% from 2020 baseline by 2025.*
- Reduce per-capita municipal solid waste (all streams) 25% from 2020 baseline by 2025.*
* Data does not currently include remote location facilities where recycling and compost hauling are not available.
- Reduce per-capita electronic waste 25% from 2020 baseline by 2025.
- Develop and implement print standards to reduce paper use 50% from 2019 baseline by 2025.

Commitments:

- Compost all landscaping.
- Optimize water treatment chemicals in volume and type.
- Identify beneficial reuse options for water treatment residual disposal.



PROCUREMENT

Standards:

- Uphold Denver Water sustainability procurement standards regarding waste reduction, product and service improvement, and efficiencies within Denver Water operations.

Commitments:

- Continue to reduce shop and maintenance chemical use and work with the purchasing department to find more sustainable alternatives.
- Account for value of sustainability in scoring RFPs.

Denver Water People

Denver Water knows that employee satisfaction means employee retention, which is at the heart of a sustainably run organization. To attract and retain the best talent, Denver Water focuses on safety, health, wellness and high quality of work life for employees. As a result, our employees have a passion for stewardship and are preparing for the future. Because it is the right thing to do.



INSPIRED PEOPLE

Goals:

- Increase Denver Water safety maturity, a metric calculated from traditional safety measures of accidents, incidents, program quality metrics, and cultural indicators, from 3.75 to 4.2 by 2025.

Standard:

- Maximize participation and benefits available through WELL Building Standard and other wellbeing certifications by implementing optimizations on Denver Water properties when applicable.

Commitments:

- Continue to offer sustainability awareness training through communication, education events, lunch and learns, coffee breaks and new employee orientation.
- Expand and improve supplier diversity strategy to strengthen relationships and create more business opportunities for small, woman-owned and minority-owned businesses.
- Continue to promote telework and flexible work opportunities for safety and health of employees.
- Facilitate collaborations to support employee pilot innovations and sustainable improvements to our operations.
- Promote professional development for future leaders.
- Continue to improve sustainable transportation incentives and programs for employees.
- Continue to improve employee wellbeing at all Denver Water locations with options for physical activity and healthy food.

Infrastructure and Assets

Denver Water has taken a leadership role in understanding and promoting sustainability both in the state of Colorado and in water utility planning. Our goal is to build environments responsibly and enhance Denver Water property. We are dedicated to sustainable growth and operation of our assets and leading by example to share experience and expertise.



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND OPERATIONS

Goals:

- Incorporate standards that include stormwater runoff in the redevelopment of two Denver Water properties by 2025.

Standards:

- Maximize participation and benefits of LEED, Envision, SITES and other building certifications by implementing standards in all new construction and major renovation when applicable
- Uphold Denver Water's green cleaning standards regarding chemical type in product and services within Denver Water operations.

Commitments:

- Continue to participate in the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's (CDPHE) Environmental Leadership Program (ELP) at the Gold Leader level.
- Continue to participate in the City and County of Denver's Certifiably Green Denver Program to qualify Denver Water's fleet shop for certification.
- Continue to invest and participate in new trials and pilots for energy, water, and waste savings within our infrastructure.
- Install permeable pavement and surfaces when applicable in development and resurfacing projects.
- Include sustainability goals for all Continuous Improvement events.



ASSETS

Commitments:

- Consider fuel-efficient vehicles and alternative transportation options for all new fleet vehicles.
- Continue to evaluate and update IT Asset Management Plan.



Sustainability Implementation and Reporting

This guide applies to all of Denver Water's operations. A majority of the reporting will require implementing metering and tracking mechanisms that establish baselines. These mechanisms are in the process of being defined and implemented if an existing tracking system is not already in place. Additionally, Denver Water is committed to assessing the software used for tracking work orders to report on improvements and upgrades to our infrastructure's efficiency.

Continuous Improvement

A key component of our sustainability implementation is following a continuous improvement model to determine new opportunities for advancement.

Sustainability is full-circle thinking at Denver Water, and we take these steps in our work:

- Continuously analyze the current state of operations and ecosystems.
- Identify baselines.
- Engage stakeholders.
- Define opportunities.
- Set goals.
- Initiate changes.
- Deploy programs.
- Document and verify results.
- Evaluate processes.
- Analyze the current state again.



As technology advances and best practices evolve, Denver Water continues to revisit and update our operations to make them as sustainable as possible.

Denver Water's Outdoor Recreation Areas

There's more to water than drinking it. Denver Water's reservoirs and watershed areas offer many recreational activities. Denver Water owns nine sites that are open to public recreation, including Antero, Cheesman, Dillon, Eleven Mile, Gross and Williams Fork reservoirs, as well as the High Line Canal, South Platte River and Waterton Canyon/Strontia Springs Reservoir.

Ultimately, this is why we incorporate sustainability into everything we do: So that future generations can enjoy and experience the great outdoors as much as we do today.

Activities allowed at each site vary, but include:



- Bicycling
- Camping
- Canoeing
- Cross country skiing
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback riding
- Hunting (big game and fowl)
- Ice fishing
- Paddle boarding
- Kayaking
- Motorboating
- Nature viewing
- Picnicking
- Renting
- Rowing
- Sailboating
- Snowmobiling
- Windsurfing



Antero Reservoir



Dillon Reservoir



Eleven Mile Canyon Reservoir



Cheesman Reservoir



Waterton Canyon



Williams Fork Reservoir

Many minds and voices were engaged in conversation to compile the history, best practices and current efforts in efficiency and sustainability within Denver Water operations. We would like to acknowledge the contribution of those who participated in the development of this guiding document. This guide shares Denver Water's foundation of stewardship, engagement in continuous improvement and plans for future generations. We would like to acknowledge the contributions and efforts of all employees who steadily improve our operational use of energy, water, and resources while diverting waste and maintaining focus on ecological health and social justice.

And thank you to the organizations and partners that continue to work alongside us and recognize our efforts.

- U.S. Green Building Council's LEED certification for Operations Complex, including Platinum for the Administration Building (2021).
- City and County of Denver's award Certifiably Green Business for the Administration Building (2020).
- Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Environmental Leadership Program's recognition for Gold Leader (2020).
- Carbon Footprint Registry's Award for Gold Status (2019).
- City and County of Denver Office of Sustainability's "Love This Place" Award for Implementer of Sustainability (2018).
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies' Award for Sustainable Water Utility Management (2018).
- Blue Star Recycler's Award for Star Partner (2017).
- Association of Municipal Water Agencies' Platinum Award for Utility Excellence (2015).
- Global Water Award for Water Performance Initiative of the Year (2015).
- Trout Unlimited River Stewardship Honoree in the "Learning by Doing" partnership (2016).
- EPA WaterSense Excellence Awards (2015 and 2014).



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YourDenverWater



DenverWater



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