



BABBITT CENTER FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY

A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

Incorporating Land Use Planning Into Water Efficiency Plans

State of Colorado Water Efficiency Plan Guidance Addendum

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is collaborating with the Getches-Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Boulder to update State of Colorado guidance on water efficiency plans to include land use mechanisms and further encourage the integration of water resources and land use planning processes.

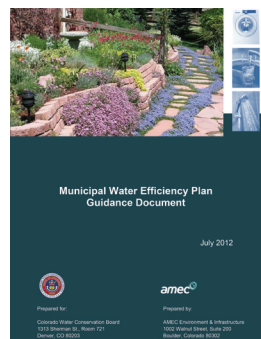
Partners

- Anne Castle, Senior Fellow at the Getches Wilkinson Center for Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Boulder Law School is a project leader.
- Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy is a project leader and funder.
- Colorado Water Conservation Board is a project funder.

The Problem

The State of Colorado has required retail water providers serving 2,000 acre-feet or more to submit Water Efficiency Plans (WEPs) since 1991. The State has provided extensive guidance on the preparation of these plans, however new requirements for incorporating land use practices into WEPs are not covered in the existing State guidance. Moreover, in 2015 Senate Bill 8 stipulated that WEPs must evaluate “best management practices for water demand management, water efficiency, and water conservation that may be implemented through land use planning efforts.”

The Babbitt Center is developing an addendum to existing State guidance to include land use best practices that can be implemented by water providers, either independently, or through collaboration with a land use authority. These materials will be submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for consideration and possible adoption.



*Current guidance on
Water Efficiency Plans
from CWCB*

Methods

The addendum is being developed through an extensive review of literature on integrating land use and water planning; interviews with Colorado water providers; and valuable input from regional experts. To ensure the draft addendum appropriately balances land use decisions with the regional impacts of water supply and use, a workshop will be convened to obtain feedback from stakeholders, local government land use authorities, and water providers.

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