

COLORADO

**COLORADO WATER
CONSERVATION BOARD**

Water Efficiency
Grant Program
Fiscal Year 2009-2010

ANNUAL REPORT



Overview

The Water Efficiency Grant Program (WEGP), created in 2004 under HBO4-1254, is administered by the CWCB's Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning (OWCDP). This grant program provides financial assistance to communities, water providers and eligible entities statewide for water conservation, drought planning, and implementation projects. Since 2005, more than \$2 million has been awarded through this grant program.

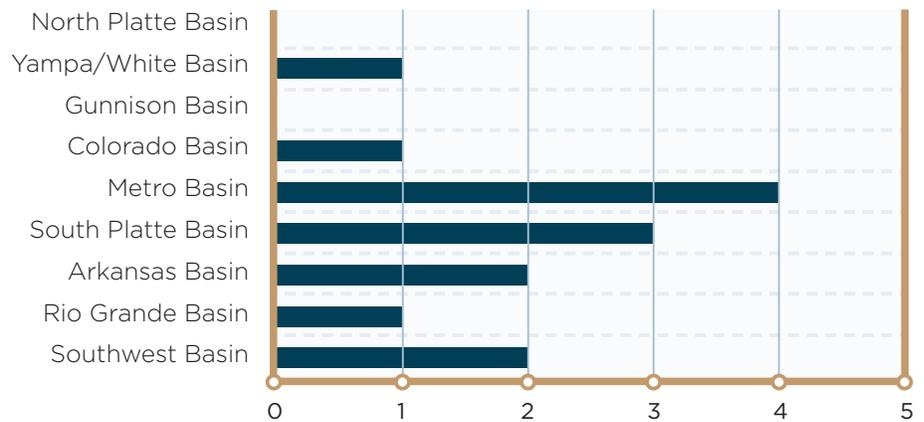
For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the OWCDP awarded \$480,000 to fourteen projects in water basins and to organizations statewide.

Water Efficiency Grants are available in the following areas of water resource planning:

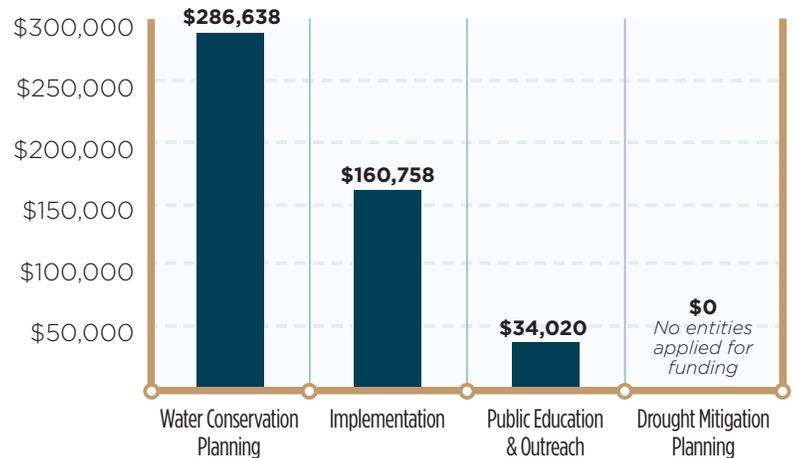
- Water Conservation Planning
- Water Conservation Plan Implementation
- Water Resource Conservation Public Education & Outreach
- Drought Mitigation Planning & Implementation



NUMBER OF GRANTS AWARDED IN FY09 - 10



GRANT AMOUNTS AWARDED IN FY09 - 10



Water Conservation Planning Projects

A goal of the OWCDP is to provide support and assistance to water providers, the state, and local governmental entities to develop or update Water Conservation Plans. Across Colorado, water entities of all sizes turn to the OWCDP to assist with these local water planning efforts.

For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the OWCDP awarded nine water conservation planning grants to the following entities:



Toilets were replaced in Brighton's City Hall building.

City of Durango	\$17,710	Southwest Basin
Douglas County Regional Plan* <i>* Includes approximately 20 water providers</i>	\$49,980	Metro Basin
East Cherry Creek Valley Water & Sanitation District	\$29,850	Metro Basin
Grand Valley Regional Plan** <i>** Includes City of Grand Junction, Ute Water Conservancy District, Clifton Water District</i>	\$50,000	Colorado Basin
Security Water District	\$23,265	Arkansas Basin
Southeastern Colorado Regional Plan† <i>† Includes approximately 40 water providers</i>	\$39,926	Arkansas Basin
Steamboat Springs Regional Plan† <i>† Includes City of Steamboat Springs and Mount Werner Water</i>	\$15,358	Yampa/White Basin
Town of Monte Vista	\$35,646	Rio Grande Basin
Town of Superior	\$24,996	South Platte Basin

A Regional Approach to Water Resource Planning

For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, four of the nine Water Conservation Plan grants were awarded for Regional Water Conservation Plans, where more than one water provider joins together to create a unifying and resource efficient conservation plan. Regional plans create a collaborative opportunity for single water providers to engage in water efficient practices that may not have been possible otherwise. Regional water conservation planning can assist in implementation of best practices throughout a region.

Water Conservation Implementation Projects

Entities can further utilize WEGP money to implement goals and programs identified in a CWCB-approved Water Conservation Plan.

For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, the OWCDP awarded four grants for implementation projects to the following entities:

Town of Windsor Water Rate Study

South Platte Basin • \$30,570

Windsor's Conservation Plan identified a water rate study as a priority. With an improved water rate structure, Windsor could potentially save 424 acre feet over a ten year period.

Town of Castle Rock Water Conservation Website

Metro Basin • \$31,875

Grant monies are assisting the Town in developing a comprehensive website which will include real time local weather, irrigation recommendations, plant lists, and water saving practices for home owners. The Town estimates an increase in conservation awareness will result in water savings of 13.7 million gallons per year.

Pagosa Area Water & Sanitation District Commercial Water Audit Program (PAWSD) *Southwest Basin • \$48,700*

The PAWSD Water Conservation Plan identified a commercial water audit program as a priority in a tourism-based economy. WEGP monies are being used for fixture retrofits in the commercial sector's outdoor irrigation practices and business owner education. The District estimates water savings of up to one acre feet annually for each water audit completed.



A new water meter is installed in a Brighton residence following the City's water audit program.

City of Brighton Commercial and Residential Water Audit Program

Metro Basin • \$49,613

The City conducted a pilot audit program in 2009. It demonstrated the need for a comprehensive water audit program. Brighton is using

grant monies to expand their water audit program to more commercial and residential water accounts in Brighton's service area. The City estimates a 7 to 15% reduction in current water use.

The Town of Castle Rock is using grant monies to develop a water conservation website that will help educate their customers on best water conservation practices.

Public Education & Outreach Projects

The OWCDP is committed to promoting the benefits of water resource conservation to a wide audience and supports entities in public education and outreach to increase conservation awareness.

For Fiscal Year 2009-2010, OWCDP awarded one grant for a public education & outreach project to the following organization:

**Center for Resource Conservation (CRC):
Indoor Water Audit Programs
South Platte Basin • \$34,020**

The CRC had agreements with the Cities of Lafayette, Longmont and Thornton to conduct indoor water audits for their utility customers in 2010. The creation of a ‘turn-key’ indoor water audit program will be a valuable addition to water conservation in Colorado and will continue to help the CWCB add to the breadth and depth of conservation efforts at the local level.



CRC staff member installs a high efficiency showerhead in a residence in Thornton.

Drought Mitigation Planning Projects

Drought is one of the most destructive of all natural hazards, yet often the least planned for by local governments. Drought adversely affects nearly all sectors of Colorado’s industry. In 2010, The Colorado Water Conservation Board approved a comprehensively revised State Drought Mitigation & Response Plan. Since the adoption of the revised State Drought Plan, there has been increasing interest by water providers to develop local drought plans. However, to date no grants have been awarded. The OWCDP continues to work with water providers throughout the state.

“The CWCB Water Efficiency Grant program has assisted the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District in the development of a Regional Water Conservation Plan for the Arkansas Valley Conduit participants. The regional plan is being developed in accordance with the conservation needs of approximately 40 of the municipalities and small water providers in the lower Arkansas River valley. This is the first regional plan to cover such a large area and this many participants. The District appreciates the fact the State has placed an emphasis on regional planning and has provided funding to support this position.”

— JEAN VAN PELT
Conservation Outreach
Coordinator, Southeastern
Colorado Water Conservancy
District



Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning

The CWCB's Office of Water Conservation and Drought Planning was created to promote water conservation and drought mitigation planning and implementation by: acting as a repository for related information; providing technical assistance; providing financial assistance; and providing evaluation of plans to address water needs and prepare for water related emergencies.

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