

## **2026 Water Conservation Workplan and Subcommittee Structure- DRAFT**

The Water Conservation Committee (WCC) serves as a community advisory body that provides input on water conservation policies, programs, and outreach efforts for the City of Santa Fe.

The committee's work supports implementation of the City's Water Conservation Work Plan and Program Scorecard, which track progress toward long-term water efficiency goals and align with major planning efforts including Santa Fe Water 2100 and the Sustainable Santa Fe 25-Year Plan.

By engaging residents with diverse expertise and community perspectives, the WCC helps the City:

- Strengthen conservation programs
- Improve communication with residents and businesses
- Build community support for water conservation policies
- Provide feedback on program performance and new initiatives

### **Subcommittee Structure**

The WCC will form three subcommittees:

- Outdoor Water Conservation
- Commercial Water Conservation
- Public Outreach and Education

Each subcommittee will:

- Meet between full committee meetings
- Review staff presentations and program data
- Develop recommendations for the full committee
- Help advance priorities identified in the Water Conservation Work Plan

### **Outdoor Water Conservation Subcommittee**

Outdoor irrigation accounts for the largest seasonal water demand in Santa Fe. This subcommittee will focus on strategies to improve landscape water efficiency while preserving the City's unique landscapes and urban tree canopy.

#### **Key Focus Areas**

Landscape Transformation and Irrigation Efficiency

- Evaluate landscape transformation rebates
- Review irrigation retrofit incentives
- Identify opportunities to expand outdoor efficiency education programs

### **Landscape Design Standards and Policy**

- Provide feedback on Landscape Irrigation Design Standards (LIDS)
- Consider water-efficient landscape policies for new development
- Explore strategies to protect the urban tree canopy

### **City Leadership and Demonstration Projects**

- Review irrigation efficiency in City parks
- Identify demonstration landscapes and public examples of water-wise design

### **Potential Deliverables**

- Recommendations for improving outdoor rebate programs
- Input on landscape irrigation standards
- Identification of priority landscape efficiency projects

### **Commercial Water Conservation Subcommittee**

The commercial sector represents a significant opportunity for water savings through efficiency improvements and partnerships with local businesses.

#### **Key Focus Areas**

##### Commercial Water Use Analysis

- Review findings from the commercial baseline study
- Identify high opportunity sectors such as hotels, restaurants, cooling towers, and multi-family housing

#### **Water-Wise Business Partnerships**

- Provide input on the WaterWise Business program
- Support partnerships with tourism and economic development organizations

#### **Top Water Users Engagement**

- Identify strategies for working with Santa Fe's largest water users
- Explore benchmarking and voluntary efficiency programs

#### **Potential Deliverables**

- Recommendations for commercial conservation programs
- Strategies for engaging high-water-use sectors
- Input on business recognition programs

### **Public Outreach and Education Subcommittee**

This subcommittee will focus on strengthening outreach and education programs that help residents understand their role in protecting Santa Fe's water resources.

### **Key Focus Areas**

#### Water Resources Indicator Communication

- Provide feedback on messaging related to the Water Resources Indicator (WRI)
- Review dashboards and seasonal conservation messaging

### **Community Outreach and Events**

- Support outreach through Earth Day, Arbor Day, watershed hikes, and other community events
- Identify opportunities for broader community engagement

### **Education Programs**

- Review K-12 education initiatives such as My Water, My Watershed and Project WET
- Explore opportunities for expanded bilingual education materials

### **Potential Deliverables**

- Recommendations for conservation messaging
- Outreach strategies tied to drought conditions
- Ideas for community engagement campaigns

### **Staff Presentations to Support Subcommittee Work**

#### Core Program Briefings

- Water Conservation Program overview
- Water use trends and conservation progress
- Santa Fe Water 2100 planning overview

#### Technical Program Briefings

##### Outdoor Conservation

- Outdoor water use trends
- Landscape rebate program performance
- Irrigation efficiency in City parks

##### Commercial Conservation

- Commercial water use baseline study
- Top water users analysis
- WaterWise Business program overview

#### Outreach and Education

- Water Resources Indicator (WRI) dashboard and drought communication
- Save Water Santa Fe outreach programs
- ConserveTrack outreach tracking

## **Proposed Timeline**

### Quarter 1

- Introduce subcommittee structure
- Staff presentations on program overview
- Committee members sign up for subcommittees

### Quarter 2

- Subcommittees review data and program performance
- Identify priority opportunities

### Quarter 3

- Develop recommendations
- Coordinate with staff on feasibility

### Quarter 4

- Present recommendations to full committee
- Incorporate into next annual workplan

## **Expected Outcomes**

Through this structure the Water Conservation Committee will:

- Provide meaningful input on conservation programs
- Strengthen partnerships between the City and community stakeholders
- Support public understanding of water conservation goals
- Help advance Santa Fe's long-term water sustainability strategies

By engaging residents with diverse expertise and perspectives, the committee will help ensure Santa Fe continues to lead as a water-wise community in the Southwest.