

COLORADO GROWING WATER SMART

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

October 2023 Workshop

The Land and Water Challenge

Colorado is navigating significant uncertainty around water availability, requiring local jurisdictions to fundamentally rethink water use and to assume new leadership roles.

Historically, planning for water resources and land use have been conducted separately. Yet, where and how we build impacts the quantity of water needed and the quality of water that supports our ecosystems.

Elected officials, water resource managers, and land use planners can increase resilience and create water smart communities even as populations grow by collaborating to identify and implement strategies that address local and regional water concerns.



SONORAN
INSTITUTE

The Growing Water Smart Workshop

The Growing Water Smart workshop brings key community decisionmakers on water and land use planning together to collaborate on sustainable water use. The workshop utilizes a range of public engagement, planning, communication, and policy implementation tools to help community teams realize their water efficiency, watershed health, and water resilience goals.

The Sonoran Institute and Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy are accepting applications from entities in Colorado that are interested in participating in the Growing Water Smart training and assistance program.

Location: Grand Junction, CO

Date: October 23-25, 2023

Eligibility: Counties, municipalities, and districts located in Colorado

Costs: The workshop is free. Participants cover their own travel. Meals and lodging are provided.

What makes this workshop unique?

Time: A rare opportunity to for local leaders to focus - away from competing priorities - on the connection between water and land use with a cross departmental and cross sector team.

Structure: A majority of the workshop is spent in team work sessions. Each team gets nearly twelve hours of professionally facilitated discussion to help teams develop a concrete plan of action.

Access: Staff from some of the state's leading organizations working to integrate water and land use including the Colorado River District, Sonoran Institute, the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, Colorado Water Conservation Board, Department of Local Affairs, CSU Colorado Water Center, and many additional leading water experts.

Action: The workshop works towards creating a team action plan developed by consensus. After the workshop teams can apply for a follow-up technical assistance grant to implement key components of the action plan.

Network: Spend time learning from your peers and upon completion teams join a Peer-to-Peer network of over 68 communities in Colorado who have participated in the GWS Workshop.



Pixabay



Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support by LightHawk

Program at a Glance

The Growing Water Smart workshop offers your team the time to collaborate and focus on the water resource challenges that are influencing your community’s growth and development. The program is comprised of the following elements:

Team-Oriented Work Sessions: Teams assess community data, trends, and existing policies; develop succinct messaging around water; identify strategies to become water resilient; and develop an action plan to implement these strategies. Sessions are facilitated by professionals in the field who guide teams through strategic discussions.

Learning Best Practices: Presentations and written materials provide key knowledge around integrating water conservation, efficiency, reuse, and watershed protection into existing and future development.

Peer-to-Peer Networking: Participants meet and exchange ideas with peers from other jurisdictions and past workshop participants.

Follow up Funding

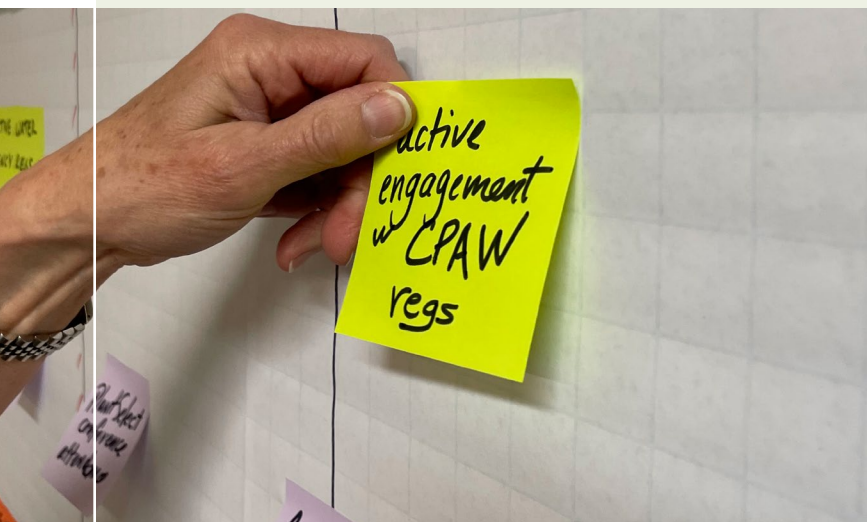
Upon workshop completion, teams become eligible to apply for up to \$10,000 in technical assistance funding to help carry out a water and land use integration strategy identified in the team’s action plan.

Previous projects have included:

- Land use code audits and policy recommendations
- The inclusion of water in comprehensive plan updates
- Collaborative stakeholder engagement and facilitation
- Metrics to measure water and land use integration
- Turf removal and low water use demonstration gardens

“Colorado Growing Water Smart opened our eyes about critical gaps in our planning efforts. Following the workshop, our local governments and service providers are seeking to use a common set of data and growth projections in our planning efforts. We expect this collaboration will expand to other issues in our community.”

James Dickoff | Town of Pagosa Springs



Sonoran Institute

Sonoran Institute



Amy McCoy, with Martin & McCoy LLC

Jeremy Stapleton with Aerial Support by LightHawk

“Colorado Growing Water Smart helped Fort Collins better collaborate with all of our water providers to plan for growth so that we consider cost and availability of water.”

Donnie Dustin | City of Fort Collins

Eligibility and Team Composition

The workshop is designed to build and foster interdisciplinary teams from counties, municipalities, and districts committed to taking collaborative action around water. In this round, we will select **six teams** to participate in our program, creating an intimate setting where individuals can truly get to know their peers while fostering a diverse range of teams. Applicants build a team of five to seven individuals with diverse knowledge, skills, and perspectives needed to secure their community’s water future and implement the developed action plan. Team composition varies to reflect the needs of each community, and often includes:

- Elected and appointed officials*
- Current and long-range land use planners*
- Water resource managers*
- Economic development leaders
- Sustainability and resilience officers
- Parks and public works staff
- Representatives of regional planning organizations
- Local non-profit organizational representatives
- Community task force members
- Consultants contributing to your current water and land use efforts

* Denotes required representative

Multi-jurisdictional or regional teams may also apply. One or more representatives from each local government should be represented, and the team should be in pursuit of a common water goal.

How to Apply

To participate in our Growing Water Smart program, please submit answers to the following five questions in .doc or .pdf format to growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org

Please limit responses to 250-500 words per question.

- 1. Team Composition:** Provide the names, titles, organizations, and email addresses of 5-7 team members who will participate in the workshop. Please identify who will serve as the team leader for pre-workshop communication.
- 2. Water Awareness:** Describe your community’s water challenges, particularly around balancing water supply and demand, but also around stormwater management, integrated water resource management, and watershed health, as applicable. How well do decision-makers and the community understand and prioritize these challenges?
- 3. Planning and Policy:** What plans, policies, and programs are currently in place in your community that address water in new and existing development? How well are they being implemented? What plans or processes are in progress related to water and land use planning integration?
- 4. Community Readiness:** How are your land use planners and water resource managers currently collaborating around water and land use? Please describe any opportunities or challenges that you want to address during this workshop.
- 5. Desired Outcomes:** What does your community hope to achieve from participation in the Growing Water Smart workshop? How does your community believe it will benefit from better integration of water and land use planning? Please be as specific as possible.



Jeremy Stapleton



Sonoran Institute

Selection Criteria

This workshop is targeted to serve municipal, county, and district members of the Colorado River District, however Colorado communities not served by the Colorado River District are also welcome to apply.

Teams will be selected based on:

1. Team composition that includes required representatives.
2. Demonstrated local commitment toward addressing water sustainability.
3. Severity of need around current and projected water conditions.
4. Capacity to foster dialogue or partnerships among agencies and entities overseeing land use planning and water resource management.

Application Process

1. Submit your application by **August 4, 2023**.
2. Accepted teams will be notified by **August 18, 2023**

Contact Information

We are here to help! If you are interested in applying or have questions about the program, please contact:

Waverly Klaw, AICP
 Director, Growing Water Smart
 Sonoran Institute
growingwatersmart@sonoraninstitute.org

Funding for Colorado Growing Water Smart is provided by the Colorado Water Conservation Board, Gates Family Foundation, Mighty Arrow Family Foundation and the Colorado River District.

This workshop is offered in Arizona, California, Colorado and the US-Mexico Border.

About the Colorado River District

The Colorado River District's mission is to lead in the protection, conservation, use, and development of the water resources of the Colorado River water basin for the welfare of the District, and to safeguard for Colorado all waters of the Colorado River to which the state is entitled.

About the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, seeks to advance the integration of land and water management to meet the current and future needs of Colorado River Basin communities, economies, and the environment.

About the Sonoran Institute

The Sonoran Institute's mission is to connect people and communities with the natural resources that nourish and sustain them. Learn more about how you can help at [SonoranInstitute.org/donate](https://sonoraninstitute.org/donate). Your support preserves the environment for future generations and makes a lasting impact in communities across Western North America.

Go to [SonoranInstitute.org](https://sonoraninstitute.org) to learn about our programs, history, and recent news. Or find us on Social Media:

 facebook.com/sonoraninstitute
 [SonoranInstituteFlix](https://www.youtube.com/SonoranInstituteFlix)
 [@sonoraninstitute](https://twitter.com/sonoraninstitute)
 [@sonoraninstitute](https://www.instagram.com/sonoraninstitute)



BABBITT CENTER
 FOR LAND AND WATER POLICY
 A Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy



SONORAN
 INSTITUTE