

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION



MEETING DATE: January 14, 2025

ITEM NUMBER: 9.B

SECOND READING:

{{customfields.ResoOrdNumber}}

TYPE OF ITEM: General Business

PRESENTED BY:

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SUBJECT/AGENDA TITLE:

Presentation Of 2025-2032 Water Efficiency Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This communication presents the 2025-2032 Water Efficiency Plan for Council adoption. The plan focuses on reducing water consumption by an additional 3% by 2030, expanding water-saving programs, fostering interdepartmental collaboration, and ensuring equitable access to water efficiency initiatives. These efforts are designed to address Longmont's commitment to sustainability, climate readiness, and responsible resource use.

The Longmont Water Board reviewed this plan in December and recommended adoption, with updates based on Council direction and public feedback. Staff agrees with this recommendation.

COUNCIL OPTIONS:

1. Provide input on plan and direct staff to implement plan
2. Provide input on plan and direct staff to amend plan
3. Deny plan

RECOMMENDED OPTIONS:

Approve the plan as presented with applicable changes made from Council direction and public comments received.

FISCAL IMPACT & FUND SOURCE FOR RECOMMENDED ACTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND AND ISSUE ANALYSIS:

Longmont is dedicated to providing safe, reliable water while conserving resources. For nearly 30 years, the city has focused on using water wisely to ensure there's enough for

everyone, now and in the future by implementing Water Conservation programs driven by Water Efficiency plans. The City has written and followed these guiding plans since 1996; updating them in 2008, 2017, and again in 2025.

This updated plan builds on past efforts and meets state requirements set by the Colorado Water Conservation Board to reduce water use and to be ready for changes in climate. These plans are mandated by the State of Colorado to be reviewed and updated every seven years.

Why Water Efficiency Matters

- **Sustainability:** Longmont is committed to maintaining a steady water supply for our current and future community.
- **Responsible Use:** The city works across departments to manage water carefully, especially in Colorado's dry climate.
- **Climate Readiness:** Water-saving practices help Longmont prepare for droughts and other climate challenges, like wildfires and floods.
- **Environmental Impact:** Reducing water use cuts down on the need for energy and chemicals to treat water and delays the need for expensive infrastructure projects.

Key Goals for 2025-2032

1. **Decrease Water Consumption:** Longmont aims to reduce water use by an additional 3% by 2030, saving over 200 million gallons, compared with 2022 usage by encouraging water-efficient landscaping, appliances, irrigation, and more.
2. **Expand Water-Saving Programs:** The city currently offers incentives to switch to water-efficient appliances, reduce turf lawns, and perform water audits for businesses. We will expand these programs as seen fit.
3. **Work Together on Water:** The city's departments will collaborate to ensure water is used wisely across all city properties and projects.
4. **Make Water Efficiency Equitable:** The plan ensures that water-saving efforts benefit the entire community while addressing risks fueled by a changing climate like drought and wildfire.

What Longmont Has Achieved So Far

Since 1996, Longmont has cut water consumption rates by 46.5%, thanks to education, efficient pricing, and better infrastructure. The city has already exceeded its previously set goal to reduce water demand, and this updated plan will continue to help conserve water and protect resources for future generations.

After Council's adoption of the updated plan, relevant comments and updates will be made, and the plan will be submitted to the Colorado Water Conservation Board for final approval and adoption. This adopted plan will allow the City to apply for and be awarded state grants and loans for water projects.

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**ATTACHMENTS:**

Att 1 – 2025 Water Efficiency Plan