



What is the Waterwise Council Program?

The Water Corporation and the Department of Water, with support from ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, have developed a Waterwise Council program. The aim of this program is to build a co-operative working relationship with local governments to promote sound water management and improve water use efficiency in local government and their communities.

Why have a Waterwise Council Program?

Climate change and predictions of reduced water availability present significant challenges to those planning our water resources and demand management. The State Water Plan provides a strategic framework to secure our water future. The plan highlights the importance of water use efficiency as well as securing new water supply sources.

Waterwise programs have achieved substantial water savings in homes and gardens by offering householders rebates for water-efficient appliances and provision of specialist advice on waterwise products and services.

Since Waterwise campaigns were enhanced and water restrictions were introduced in 2001, an average of 44 GL of scheme water has been saved each year. Approximately 30 per cent of Perth's households have invested in a garden bore to irrigate gardens and the daytime sprinkler ban, which reduces water wasted due to evaporation, has also been well embraced.

The State Water Plan has set a challenging domestic per capita target of less than 100kL per annum of scheme water use in Perth by 2011. A review of household usage in other areas of the state will identify opportunities for further water use efficiency.

The State Water Plan also identified the need for state government to work together with local government, parks, leisure and recreational sectors to review how we value and use water in public open spaces. The aim is to maintain the usefulness and attractions of public open space, while being more efficient in groundwater use.

The partnership with local governments through the Waterwise Council program will be an essential component of the effort to achieve water savings at both corporate and community level in the longer-term. It will assist local government authorities to improve water management for public open space and to reduce overall water use. It will also support behavioural changes in the community by encouraging participation in waterwise programs and the use of products and services designed to maximise efficient water use.





What are the benefits of becoming a Waterwise Council?

Becoming a Waterwise Council will provide a number of benefits, including:

- An understanding of council's water use;
- Potential water savings through improved efficiency and therefore financial savings;
- Specialist Waterwise training courses for appropriate council staff on water efficiency, irrigation and water auditing;
- Access to waterwise materials on water efficiency and conservation for display and/or distribution amongst their community;
- Ability to display council's waterwise endorsement on all publications;
- Recognition as a Waterwise Council will position the council among the very best of today's sustainable water managers.

How can I become a Waterwise Council?

The Waterwise Council program is open to all local government authorities within Western Australia, but it is recommended that the council is a participant of the government funded ICLEI Water Campaign™.

If a council is unable to join ICLEI, they can still become a Waterwise Council by achieving equivalent criteria.

The ICLEI Water Campaign™

By participating in the ICLEI Water Campaign™ a council has access to assistance and tools to improve its water use management, water use efficiency and local water quality on corporate and community level in a step-by-step milestone framework. Except for a joining fee, this capacity building program is free of charge for a local government authority as it is funded by Government through the Department of Water in Western Australia.

A majority of the Perth metropolitan councils and many in the South West are already participating in the ICLEI Water Campaign™, representing more than 70 per cent of the Western Australian population.

The Water Campaign™ is provided through ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, Oceania. To read more about ICLEI and the Water Campaign™, and how to become a participant, visit the Department of Water's website at www.water.wa.gov.au/PlanningWaterFuture/WAWaterCampaign or contact: Susannah Raffe, Water Campaign™ Coordinator, telephone 9364 0635 or email Susannah.raffe@iclei.org





Criteria for becoming a Waterwise Council

A local government authority has to fulfil the following criteria to become a Waterwise Council. Detailed guidelines will be provided to assist councils to address the criteria, once a council has registered its interest in becoming Waterwise.

1. Participate in the ICLEI Water Campaign™, achieve Milestones 1 to 3 (Community or Corporate modules)

If a council is not participating in the Water Campaign™ equivalent criteria are applicable.

Milestone 1: *complete an inventory of water consumption and a water quality practices gap analysis;*

Milestone 2: *set goals to improve water management;*

Milestone 3: *develop a local action plan that defines the strategic direction and the actions council will take to achieve the goals;*

2. Ensure that appropriate staff members attend a waterwise training course on waterwise gardening and irrigation and on internal auditing;
3. Review the value and use of water for grounds and public open space, adhere to the government's statewide permanent water efficiency measures and, where required (metropolitan and identified priority councils), complete a water conservation plan to the satisfaction of the Department of Water and there must be no breach of any abstraction limit set;
4. Demonstrate substantial progress within 18 months towards implementation of actions; and include reporting on water efficiency targets and performance in the council's annual report.





Retaining the Waterwise Council endorsement

To maintain the Waterwise recognition status a local government authority has to:

1. Continue to commit to and progress through the Waterwise criteria and the ICLEI Water Campaign™ modules and milestones until completed.

If a council is not participating in the Water Campaign™ equivalent criteria are applicable.

Milestone 4: *implement the local action plan, including a quantitative and qualitative assessment and report of the implemented actions; and*

Milestone 5: *conduct a re-inventory to assess council progress and ensure continuous improvement in water management practices.*

2. Continue reporting on water efficiency targets and performance in the council's annual report.





Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Water**



Recognition

On completing the Waterwise criteria a local government authority will be presented with an official acknowledgement of the council's achievement – a Waterwise certificate.

Additionally, local government authorities achieving the Waterwise Council endorsement will be provided with waterwise branding for use on newsletters, signs and other promotional materials to promote themselves as a Waterwise Council. This can instil further pride in council's residents and employees who will see the waterwise achievements of their council on display.

Register your interest

To implement the Waterwise Council program in your council, you will need to register your interest via email to either;

Water Corporation; water.efficiency@watercorporation.com.au

or

Department of Water; water.efficiency@water.wa.gov.au

Once you have registered you will be contacted by a Waterwise Council coordinator and guided through the criteria.

Department of Water 168 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6000 PO Box K822 Perth WA 6842 Telephone (08) 6364 7600 Facsimile (08) 6364 7601 Web www.water.wa.gov.au	Water Corporation 629 Newcastle Street Leederville 6007 PO Box 100 Leederville 6902 Telephone (08) 9420 3507 Facsimile (08) 9420 2102 Web www.watercorporation.com.au
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Waterwise Council Program

Guidelines and information to assist a Local Government Authority to demonstrate achievement of the Waterwise Council criteria

1 Participate in the ICLEI Water Campaign™ and achieve Milestones 1 to 3 of the Water Campaign™ for the corporate and/or community modules;

If a council is unable to join ICLEI, they can still become a Waterwise Council by achieving equivalent criteria.

“The ICLEI Water Campaign™ provides a framework to address the management of water resources on two levels or modules, Water Quality and Water Conservation. Within these two modules the council will address each of them on a further two levels;

Corporate: Improving water management within a council’s own operations; and

Community: Improving water management in both residential and non-residential water use in the community.

Milestone 1: complete an inventory of water consumption and a water quality practices gap analysis;

Milestone 2: set goals to improve water management;

Milestone 3: develop a local action plan to achieve council’s goals.”

- 1.1 Nominate an employee/position as a point of contact for water related issues; this may be the council’s Water Campaign™ primary contact.
- 1.2 Council water consumption - Identify the top water using buildings and grounds owned by the authority (as identified in the Water Campaign™ Milestone 1 inventory) and;
 - Conduct a water audit on at least one of the top water using sites (to the standard provided in the Internal Audit Training course);
 - Include the water auditing of other identified sites in the council’s action plan as appropriate;
 - Commit to implement 50% of recommendations from the water audit plan.
- 1.3 If council is working on the Community module, the Milestone 2 goal for Community must link to the goal stated by the State Water Plan to reduce per capita scheme water use (where appropriate) or improve overall water use efficiency within the community.





2 Ensure all appropriate staff members attend a Waterwise training course

Free training is provided for:

- Internal Water Auditing – a four hour session on how to conduct an audit, determine water savings and develop a recommendation plan. This session is recommended for building maintenance staff and administrators in this area;
- Waterwise Gardening & Irrigation – a four hour session on effective gardening techniques, waterwise concepts including plant selection, soil preparation; mulching; irrigation considerations, etc. This session is recommended for grounds keepers, parks and maintenance staff, customer service staff, administration staff.

3 Irrigation of council's grounds and public open space

3.1 Observe current statewide permanent water efficiency measures, implemented 1 October 2007 – no breaches issued to council in past 6 months:

- Councils using scheme water comply with watering day rosters and daytime sprinkler bans;
- Councils using groundwater comply with the daytime sprinkler ban as per their licence conditions.

3.2 Maximise efficiency of water use and demonstrate that irrigation systems are operating effectively and efficiently.

3.3 Where a council has a groundwater extraction licence with the Department of Water, use only the allocated volume within the groundwater licence.

3.4 Where required (metropolitan councils and identified priority country councils), a water conservation plan has to be completed and submitted to the Department of Water and there must be no breach of any abstraction limit set by the Department.

4 Action plans

4.1 Include at least three of the recommended water efficiency actions (listed on page 3) in the council's local action plan.

5 Reporting

5.1 Demonstrate substantial progress within 18 months towards council having implemented actions from their Corporate and/or Community local action plan;

- Report actions to ICLEI by the 'action cards' used to demonstrate progress towards Milestone 4.

5.2 Include reporting on water efficiency targets and performance in the council's annual report.





Guidelines for Local Government Authority to retain annual Waterwise endorsement:

1 Continue to commit to and progress through the Waterwise criteria and the ICLEI Water Campaign™ modules and milestones until completed.

If a council is not participating in the Water Campaign™ equivalent criteria are applicable.

“Milestone 4: implement the local action plan, report to ICLEI on the actions implemented and quantify the benefits of these actions. Councils must demonstrate that they have achieved 20% of the goals set at Milestone 2;

Milestone 5: monitor and report on water consumption reductions, water quality improvements, water management initiatives and progress towards council's goals.”

Demonstrate that council has implemented a further two actions from their Corporate and/or Community local action plan per annum, as well as the ongoing site water audits, until completion of all identified items.

2 Continue reporting on water efficiency targets and performance in the council's annual report.

Following is a listing of recommended actions for councils to include in their local action plans:

Recommended Corporate Actions:

1. Develop a purchasing policy which incorporates Waterwise products or amend existing purchasing procedures to incorporate Waterwise products.
2. Promote the use of Waterwise vegetation and irrigation within council properties, verges, public open space, etc.;

 - Where possible replace existing non water wise vegetation and irrigation and introduce amended soils as part of councils' Maintenance and Capital Program. These programs should form part of councils' Works Program.

Recommended Community Actions:

1. Support the implementation of water sensitive urban design in new land developments;

 - Encourage land developers to participate in the Water Corporation's Waterwise Land Development and Waterwise Display Village Programs.
 - Support the increase of the use of storm water and scheme water alternatives to reduce reticulation off the mains.





- Support the development of local laws and local policies within the Town Planning process to address water at the lot, subdivision and regional stage of the Town Planning process and assess compliance when processing planning applications.
 - Incorporate a checklist into the Building approval process for checking water efficiency when assessing building plan submissions.
2. Interact with household & business ratepayers to promote water efficiency via; Newsletters, Rate notices, Waterwise Workshops, Web site, water focused community engagement activity.
 3. Encourage the local community and businesses to utilise/participate in other Waterwise Program partners; Waterwise schools, garden centres, irrigators, landscapers, lawnmowers, etc.
 4. Include water as a standing agenda item on relevant ratepayers' advisory committee or on identified appropriate community group meeting.
 5. Waive the inspection fee for the installation of greywater systems and rainwater tanks.

Further information on approved training courses

Waterwise training by a local expert and provision of all Waterwise training materials are at no charge to councils participating. Training will be provided in a mutually agreed location so as to minimise the impact and inconvenience to attendees. Each training session is a stand-alone module which compliments the other session. There is a small degree of overlap as each session is not necessarily attended by the same audience.

Each session is accompanied by a comprehensive reference manual for attendees to take away. In addition, a number of handouts and other reference material are given to attendees to take away. Supporting documentation and examples are also given to attendees for the audit session.

There is a basic assessment at the end of each session, which is an 'open book' assessment and takes approx. 15 minutes to complete. All of the answers are presented during the sessions and are included in the comprehensive manual attendees receive to take away as reference material. Attendees are required to achieve a pass mark of 80% to be recognised as having been Waterwise trained and receive a certificate for that session.

Further information on water conservation plans for groundwater

The Department of Water is working with local government authorities to produce groundwater conservation plans that can easily be adopted, provide indicators of water-use efficiency and identify areas for improvement. They provide opportunities for councils to measure current groundwater use, review irrigated park areas, audit irrigation systems and find efficiencies, determine the





capacity for hydro-zoning and explore alternative sources such as water recycling.

For more detailed information on water conservation plans read the Department of Water Statewide Policy No 16 – Policy on Water conservation/efficiency plans (July 2008), available on the website www.water.wa.gov.au/Policies

For further assistance on council's groundwater usage, water conservation plan requirements and templates contact the Department of Water's water-efficiency hotline 1800 508 885 or email waterefficiency@water.wa.gov.au

Relevant websites for more water efficiency information

A wide range of waterwise information is available on the following websites:

Local government specific information with fact sheets on irrigation scheduling and on hydro-zoning are available on the Department of Water's website: www.water.wa.gov.au/WiseWaterUse/LocalGovernment

Information on saving scheme water and on the Waterwise programs for business, industry, schools and the community are also available on the Water Corporation's website: www.watercorporation.com.au

Waterwise Ways for Western Australia website: www.waterwisewaysforwa.com.au provides useful information on the government's water efficiency measures for local councils, business and industry, schools and the community.

Information on water sensitive urban design topics is available on the website: www.newwaterways.org.au

The Water Efficiency Labelling and Standards (WELS) Scheme tests and labels products for water efficiency, helping Australian households save water and money. Visit their local government specific information on: www.waterrating.gov.au/government

Smart Approved Water Mark website: www.smartwatermark.info/home provides information on Australia's outdoor water saving labelling program for products and services that help to reduce water use around the home.

