

Water Conservation BMPs: Water Waste Prohibition



RWSPG Meeting May 27, 2008

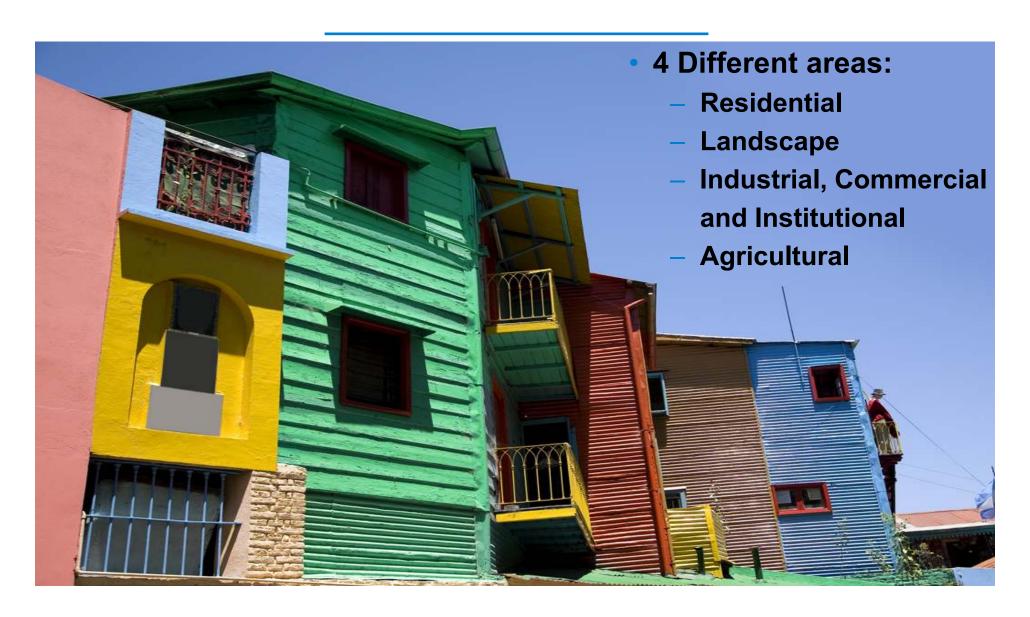


Presentation Overview

- Definition
- Most Common Water Waste Topics
- Ordinances
- Benefits/Costs
- Examples
- Sample Recommendation Statements



Definitions



Water Waste Prohibition **Definitions**

Waste Water prohibition measures are.....

Enforceable actions and measures that prohibit specific wasteful activities.





Water Waste Prohibition **Definitions**

- 2 ways...
 - Specific actions
 - CUWCC
 - Specific outcome
 - Southern Nevada Water Authority
 - Boulder City



Most Common Prohibition Topics

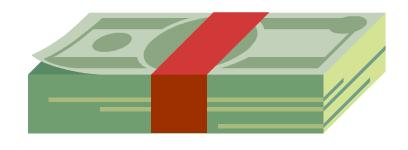
- Gutter flushing
- Single pass cooling systems in new connections
- Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
- Non-recycling decorative water fountains
- Restricted use of water softeners
- Landscaping restrictions





Ordinances

- Used to implement and enforce
- 1st time= warning
- 2nd, 3rd, etc= fine or stop in service
- Varies greatly with location





No Authority.....make a Policy!

- East Medina County Special Utility District
- Set Policy for water waste prohibition-adapted by Board of Directors
- Community relationship fosters compliance



Exceptions and Combinations

Landscaping and Water Waste

- Water waste ordinances
- Landscaping restriction ordinances
 - Day specific watering schedule
 - Turf Limitations
 - Ban on sprinkler irrigation for narrow turf strips
- Varies widely…
- Cultural notion for "attractive and functional landscape"



Costs

- Development and adoption of an ordinance and enforcement structure
- Ongoing administration/staff
 - Maintenance of program
 - Enforcement of program





Benefits



- Not wasting water...
- Setting Limits and Definitions
- Reduced Stormwater runoff
- Reduced pollution from runoff
- Save energy from pumping and treating
- Save chemicals from treating more water
- Instill sense of conservation in customers



El Paso



PROHIBITS:

- Washing a vehicle without a positive shut-off nozzle
- Irrigation runoff to run into the street
- Outdoor watering on other than the assigned days.
 - Watering on the wrong day nets the violator a \$137 fine plus court costs.
 - Citizens caught watering at the wrong time or allowing water to run into the right-of-way are fined \$112 fine plus court costs.
- Failure to repair leaks is a \$245 fine.



Austin, Texas

- Year Round
- Prohibit (Class C misdemeanor)
 - Failing to repair leaks
 - Irrigation water heads
 - Irrigation run-off
- Educational materials online
- Water Waste Reporting
 - Hotline
 - Website reporting form



CUWCC

 By 2006, 181 agencies reported having water waste prohibition in some form.

Specifically:

- 77%-Gutter Flooding
- 38%-Single pass car washes
- 35%-Single pass cooling
- 30%-Single pass laundry
- 54%-Single pass fountains
- 31%-Other Prohibitions





Sioux Falls, South Dakota

- Water Waste is prohibited at all times
 - Allowing water to run into a gutter, ditch, or drain, or failing to repair a controllable leak is considered water waste.
- Year round lawn watering schedule
- 4 Stages depending on height of river
- Washing vehicles at a residence



Summary

- Water waste can be defined in many ways
 - Combination
- Can include landscaping restrictions as well
- Usually enforced through ordinances
- Found all through the United States
- Staff and enforcement costs
- Benefits





Sample Recommendation Statement



Sample Recommendation Statement

County and City implementation and enforcement of a water waste prohibition ordinance that includes but is not limited to...

- Single pass cooling systems in new connections
- Gutter Flushing
- Non-recirculating systems in new car washes and commercial laundry systems
- Non-recycling decorative water fountains
- Restricted use of water softeners
- Landscaping restrictions



Sample Recommendation Statement

Water waste prohibition ordinances compliment existing or serve as a beginning to landscaping restrictions.



