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## Water Conservation BMPs: Water Waste Prohibition



RWSPG Meeting  
May 27, 2008



## Water Waste Prohibition

# Presentation Overview

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

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# Water Waste Prohibition Definitions

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- **4 Different areas:**
  - Residential
  - Landscape
  - Industrial, Commercial and Institutional
  - Agricultural

# Water Waste Prohibition Definitions

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Waste Water prohibition measures are.....

Enforceable actions and measures that prohibit specific wasteful activities.



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## Water Waste Prohibition Definitions

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

## Water Waste Prohibition

# Most Common Prohibition Topics

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- 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



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## Water Waste Prohibition Ordinances

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



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# No Authority.....make a Policy!

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

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# Exceptions and Combinations

## Landscaping and Water Waste

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- 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”



## Water Waste Prohibition

# Costs

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



## Water Waste Prohibition

# Benefits

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- 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

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# El Paso

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## 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.

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# Austin, Texas

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- 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

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# CUWCC

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- 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



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# Sioux Falls, South Dakota

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- 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



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## Water Waste Prohibition Summary

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- 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

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# Sample Recommendation Statement

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## Water Waste Prohibition

# Sample Recommendation Statement

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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

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Water Waste Prohibition

# Sample Recommendation Statement

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

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# Questions?



Amy Talbot

[atalbot@cmap.illinois.gov](mailto:atalbot@cmap.illinois.gov)

312.386.8646