

Utah's Regional M&I Water Conservation Goals

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Prepared for:



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PREFACE

The 2030 water conservation goals in this report will require significant effort, increased attention, participation and funding from the legislature, state agencies, municipal water retailers, local elected officials, wholesale public water suppliers and citizens of Utah.

Depending on the approaches taken and water user behavior, costs for achieving the targets associated with the recommendations in this report are estimated in the range of \$1.4 billion of capital cost. An important aspect of covering these costs will be who pays for the costs, what the relationship is between the cost and use of water, and how the capital costs of conservation net against not yet identified conservation savings and the price of increasing water scarcity.

The goals require the state and its municipalities to increase water pricing, establish and enforce water use ordinances, encourage broader adoption of existing water technology, as well as secure additional funding to reach the target water use levels.

These efforts fall on all those who have the authority to implement the measures recommended in this report, including but not limited to state and local elected officials in their key roles and businesses. These efforts include, but are not limited to:

1. Reducing new lot sizes, as determined by both market forces and state or local elected officials setting land use policy;
2. Adopting water efficient practices and landscaping changes, including reductions in grass, as determined by both market forces and state or local elected officials through landscaping and water restricting ordinances;
3. Installing secondary water meters and smart controllers on outdoor irrigation systems, as determined by water consumers through market forces and state or local elected officials; and
4. Increasing water pricing, as determined by municipal water retailers and state policies.

Recognizing these measures will require time to enact and implement, the state of Utah recommends a five-year flexibility period to achieve these 2030 goals.

Given the state's wholesale public water suppliers do not have the authority to regulate land use, mandate conservation practices or set end user water rates, they are tasked with providing support, recommendations, educational resources and leadership to the state as well as the municipalities and constituents in their respective service areas.