Webinar

Water Wise Development Coalition Meeting 10

Date: October 22, 2025

00:00:13 --> 00:00:14: Hey everyone, welcome.
00:00:15 --> 00:00:16: Thank you for joining us.
00:00:20 --> 00:00:22: We are just waiting for people to log in for
00:00:22 --> 00:00:23: a couple minutes.
00:00:23 --> 00:00:26: If you don't mind just introducing yourself in the chat
00:00:26 --> 00:00:30: box with your name, organization, and where you're calling in
00:00:30 --> 00:00:31: from, we'd love to see that.
00:01:23 --> 00:01:25: Hey everyone, thank you for joining us.
00:01:26 --> 00:01:27: We'll get started in a minute here.
00:01:27 --> 00:01:29: We're just waiting for people to log in.
00:01:30 --> 00:01:33: If you're just joining us, please add your name, title,
00:01:33 --> 00:01:37: and organization and where you're calling in from into the
00:01:37 --> 00:01:37: chat box.
00:02:00 --> 00:02:02: All right, well, I'm going to go ahead and get
00:02:02 --> 00:02:02: started.
00:02:02 --> 00:02:04: Thank you all for joining us.
00:02:04 --> 00:02:07: I'm Marian Epic, I'm the senior director of resilience for
00:02:07 --> 00:02:10: the Urban Land Institute, and it's my pleasure to welcome
00:02:10 --> 00:02:13: you to the Water Wise Development Coalition meeting today.
00:02:18 --> 00:02:21: For you who aren't familiar, ULI is headquartered in DC,
00:02:22 --> 00:02:26: but it's a global nonprofit that's focused on responsible land
00:02:26 --> 00:02:28: use and sustainable development.
00:02:30 --> 00:02:34: We have over 46,000 members globally, including a broad range
00:02:34 --> 00:02:37: of professionals active in the real estate and land use
00:02:37 --> 00:02:38: sectors.
00:02:38 --> 00:02:40: As you can see on the left, we have over
00:02:40 --> 00:02:44: 70 district councils and national councils all around the world
00:02:44 --> 00:02:47: that help us us accomplish our mission.
00:02:47 --> 00:02:49: District councils are what we call our local chapters.
00:02:52 --> 00:02:55: I work for U Ally's Urban Resilience Program, which is
00:02:55 --> 00:02:58: focused on how building cities and communities can be more

00:02:58 --> 00:03:01: resilient to the impacts of climate change and other environmental

00:03:01 --> 00:03:02: vulnerabilities.

00:03:03 --> 00:03:07: We do this by advancing industry understanding of resilience, cultivating

00:03:07 --> 00:03:12: champions for resilience, and catalyzing resilience partnerships and supporting communities

00:03:12 --> 00:03:14: and becoming more climate resilience.

00:03:15 --> 00:03:18: As part of this, we've produced quite a few reports

00:03:18 --> 00:03:21: on a variety of resilience topics, and these reports are

00:03:21 --> 00:03:23: available for free on our website.

00:03:26 --> 00:03:29: One of those reports is the Water Wise Report, which

00:03:29 --> 00:03:30: I helped author.

00:03:30 --> 00:03:35: This report introduces the challenges associated with limited freshwater availability,

00:03:35 --> 00:03:38: and it provides best practices for real estate and land

00:03:38 --> 00:03:40: use professionals to address them.

00:03:40 --> 00:03:43: I just want to mention that today's topic for the

00:03:43 --> 00:03:45: meeting is Water Wise policies and that there are policy

00:03:46 --> 00:03:48: recommendations in this report and many, many case studies.

00:03:48 --> 00:03:50: So I encourage you to download this for free.

00:03:51 --> 00:03:52: You can use the QR code and I can add

00:03:52 --> 00:03:54: the link to the chat later on.

00:03:57 --> 00:04:00: Some of you may also be interested in too much

00:04:00 --> 00:04:02: water rather than just too little water.

00:04:02 --> 00:04:05: So we have many reports on flood resilience as well.

00:04:06 --> 00:04:09: A couple on this side are the Harvesting the Value

00:04:09 --> 00:04:12: of Water report, which is about green infrastructure primarily, and

00:04:12 --> 00:04:15: the surge report, which I also helped author on coastal

00:04:16 --> 00:04:16: resilience.

00:04:16 --> 00:04:21: We have many other flood resilience resources available with this

00:04:21 --> 00:04:23: QR code on the right as well.

00:04:30 --> 00:04:33: And then if you're new here, the Urban Land Institute's

00:04:34 --> 00:04:39: Resilience Program started the Water Wise Development Coalition in partnership

00:04:39 --> 00:04:43: with the Sonoran Institute, the Alliance for Water Efficiency, and

00:04:43 --> 00:04:44: the Water Now Alliance.

00:04:45 --> 00:04:48: And we do this to convene land use and real

00:04:48 --> 00:04:53: estate professionals with policy makers to advance Watersmart, Watersmart real

00:04:53 --> 00:04:55: estate development and supportive policies.

00:04:56 --> 00:05:00: It's free for everyone to participate in our quarterly virtual

00:05:00 --> 00:05:04: meetings, and we focus primarily on methods for advancing Watersmart

00:05:04 --> 00:05:06: development and supportive policies.

00:05:07 --> 00:05:09: And our participants have a say in meetings, in meeting

00:05:09 --> 00:05:12: topics, which we'll come to later on in this meeting.

00:05:14 --> 00:05:16: With that, I'd like to go over the agenda for

00:05:16 --> 00:05:16: today.

00:05:18 --> 00:05:21: We have some amazing speakers lined up.

00:05:22 --> 00:05:24: Our first is Kelly Connolly Kern.

00:05:24 --> 00:05:27: She's the Director of Policy Affairs for the Alliance for

00:05:27 --> 00:05:31: Water Efficiency, and she'll be followed by Lindsay Rogers, policy

00:05:31 --> 00:05:35: manager for the for Municipal Conservation with the Western Resource

00:05:35 --> 00:05:35: Advocates.

00:05:36 --> 00:05:40: We did have Jonah Shine, who's the national program manager

00:05:40 --> 00:05:43: of the Watersense program with the USEPA scheduled to speak

00:05:43 --> 00:05:44: today.

00:05:44 --> 00:05:47: But because of the government shutdown, he's no longer able

00:05:47 --> 00:05:48: to participate.

00:05:48 --> 00:05:52: However, I'll just mention that he is a, you know,

00:05:52 --> 00:05:55: a coalition participant, a regular participant.

00:05:55 --> 00:05:58: So if you'd like to connect with him, that is

00:05:58 --> 00:06:01: totally possible through this coalition.

00:06:01 --> 00:06:04: And if you'd like to, I can share his e-mail

00:06:04 --> 00:06:08: information and we'll wrap up with a group discussion and

00:06:08 --> 00:06:12: resource sharing, and we'll end in an hour and a

00:06:12 --> 00:06:12: half.

00:06:13 --> 00:06:15: With that, I'd like to turn it over to our

00:06:15 --> 00:06:17: first speaker, Kelly Connolly Kern.

00:06:18 --> 00:06:18: Hi all.

00:06:18 --> 00:06:20: Good afternoon.

00:06:20 --> 00:06:23: I am going to share my slide deck with you

00:06:23 --> 00:06:26: and we can get rocking and rolling.

00:06:28 --> 00:06:31: As Marianne mentioned, my name is Kelly Conley Kern.

00:06:31 --> 00:06:34: I'm the Director of Public Affairs at the Alliance for

00:06:34 --> 00:06:37: Water Efficiency, and I've been on staff for the past

00:06:37 --> 00:06:38: three years.

00:06:39 --> 00:06:42: If you are new to AWE, we have been around

00:06:42 --> 00:06:45: just shy of 20 years, and we work across North

00:06:45 --> 00:06:50: America to promote the efficient and sustainable use of water.

00:06:50 --> 00:06:53: We do this alongside our extensive network of members, which

00:06:53 --> 00:06:58: includes everyone from local water utility agencies, local and state

00:06:58 --> 00:07:03: governments, product manufacturers, universities, environmental nonprofits and more.

00:07:04 --> 00:07:06: And we think of our work really in three categories

00:07:07 --> 00:07:07: or buckets.

00:07:07 --> 00:07:10: We develop cutting edge research and tools for our members

00:07:10 --> 00:07:11: to use.

00:07:11 --> 00:07:15: We facilitate meaningful peer-to-peer learning opportunities so folks aren't having

00:07:15 --> 00:07:16: to reinvent the wheel.

00:07:16 --> 00:07:20: And we advocate at the state and federal level for

00:07:20 --> 00:07:23: water efficient policies, products and funding.

00:07:23 --> 00:07:27: My conversation with you today will be focused on our

00:07:27 --> 00:07:30: federal policy work, with a touch of how this has

00:07:31 --> 00:07:33: implications at the state and local level.

00:07:36 --> 00:07:39: So if you have opened your phone or your TV

00:07:39 --> 00:07:43: or had a conversation with a neighbor, you know that

00:07:43 --> 00:07:46: 2025 has been a spicy year at the federal level

00:07:46 --> 00:07:50: and lots has been going on that has impacted truly

00:07:50 --> 00:07:53: every sector and industry in our country.

00:07:53 --> 00:07:56: My focus is really going to be on how water

00:07:56 --> 00:08:02: efficiency and conservation have had implications by decisions, decisions made

00:08:02 --> 00:08:05: both legislatively and through the executive office.

00:08:06 --> 00:08:07: So broad brush stroke.

00:08:07 --> 00:08:11: We have seen threats to voluntary programs like Energy Star

00:08:11 --> 00:08:15: and Water Sense, which have long standing roots in our

00:08:15 --> 00:08:19: country and a deep history of bipartisan support.

00:08:20 --> 00:08:24: This summer we saw the reconciliation process happened, which was

00:08:24 --> 00:08:26: dubbed the One Big Beautiful Bill.

00:08:27 --> 00:08:30: While we didn't see a ton of hits to water

00:08:30 --> 00:08:35: efficiency and conservation directly, our friends on the energy efficiency

00:08:35 --> 00:08:37: side had really significant losses.

00:08:37 --> 00:08:41: And the tie there is energy efficiency is about 30

00:08:41 --> 00:08:45: years ahead in terms of funding and widespread public adoption

00:08:46 --> 00:08:50: and programs than water efficiency is at the federal level.

00:08:50 --> 00:08:54: And there were several tax credits or programs that AWAWE

00:08:54 --> 00:08:58: alongside other members were hoping to advance at the federal

00:08:58 --> 00:09:02: level that then got cut on the energy efficiency side.

00:09:02 --> 00:09:05: So that will significantly stall some of this later work

00:09:05 --> 00:09:08: that we hope to see happen at the federal level.

00:09:09 --> 00:09:12: There has been a lot of momentum both from the

00:09:12 --> 00:09:18: President and in Congress along standard rollbacks for appliances, along

00:09:18 --> 00:09:21: water and energy efficiency lines.

00:09:22 --> 00:09:24: As you know, right now we are in the midst

00:09:25 --> 00:09:29: of the federal shutdown due to a stalemate along appropriations

00:09:29 --> 00:09:29: lines.

00:09:29 --> 00:09:32: And so I'll get into that a bit further as

00:09:32 --> 00:09:32: well.

00:09:34 --> 00:09:39: Implications for this coalition, Obviously y'all are a very multi

00:09:39 --> 00:09:43: sectoral group with lots of different focuses and angles from

00:09:43 --> 00:09:45: the industries you represent.

00:09:47 --> 00:09:50: While what I'll be speaking about today is a little

00:09:50 --> 00:09:52: bit more tied to indoor water use.

00:09:52 --> 00:09:56: We're all operating from water supplies that belong to a

00:09:56 --> 00:09:57: single system.

00:09:57 --> 00:10:00: So if there is lots of water being pulled indoors,

00:10:00 --> 00:10:04: that's going to have implications for outdoor water use as

00:10:04 --> 00:10:08: there are changes to federal laws and this larger environment

00:10:08 --> 00:10:13: of deregulatory policies that will have implications, again, for state

00:10:13 --> 00:10:14: and local land and water use.

00:10:15 --> 00:10:17: And there is lots up in the air in terms

00:10:17 --> 00:10:21: of what preemption might look like throughout this administration and

00:10:21 --> 00:10:21: beyond.

00:10:21 --> 00:10:25: That would have significant implications for what types of laws

00:10:25 --> 00:10:28: that are currently on the books can continue to be

00:10:28 --> 00:10:32: held and those regulations maintained versus what might be rolled

00:10:32 --> 00:10:35: back as a result of actions by Congress and the

00:10:35 --> 00:10:36: current administration.

00:10:38 --> 00:10:42: So we're going to start in DC looking at voluntary

00:10:42 --> 00:10:46: programs, specifically eyeing Watersense and Energy Star.

00:10:47 --> 00:10:51: So Watersense is a program that has been pretty narrowly

00:10:51 --> 00:10:56: in the president's sights in both the first administration and

00:10:56 --> 00:10:59: in the second Trump administration.

00:10:59 --> 00:11:03: Early in this year, there was announcements that there would

00:11:03 --> 00:11:05: be an overhaul of Watersense specifications.

00:11:06 --> 00:11:10: We've really seen those changes yet to play out in

00:11:10 --> 00:11:11: lots of ways.

00:11:11 --> 00:11:15: We've described what we've seen with Watersense in 2025, that

00:11:15 --> 00:11:18: Watersense is largely stalled or in a pause state.

00:11:20 --> 00:11:23: We had anticipated that there would be wider spread defunding

00:11:23 --> 00:11:27: or program elimination in this second administration, which has not

00:11:27 --> 00:11:30: yet been the case, which we've been really grateful for.

00:11:30 --> 00:11:33: There has been a ton of advocacy that AWE has

00:11:33 --> 00:11:37: engaged in alongside our members and other national and local

00:11:37 --> 00:11:43: and regional organizations talking about the incredible value Water Sense

00:11:43 --> 00:11:46: does to save water, to save money for communities, for

00:11:46 --> 00:11:49: local water supplies, for businesses.

00:11:49 --> 00:11:53: So there has been a large organizing effort to Congress

00:11:53 --> 00:11:57: to talk about the importance of this voluntary program plays

00:11:57 --> 00:11:58: for our country.

00:11:59 --> 00:12:02: Earlier in the year, our staff had meetings with EPA

00:12:02 --> 00:12:04: and Congress along appropriations lines.

00:12:04 --> 00:12:08: We released a fact sheet on the benefits of Watersense.

00:12:09 --> 00:12:12: The good news here is by late summer there were

00:12:12 --> 00:12:16: notes from both the House and the Senate appropriation bills

00:12:16 --> 00:12:20: that had language that was supportive of continued Watersense funding,

00:12:20 --> 00:12:23: though budget cuts are still likely.

00:12:23 --> 00:12:26: As Marianne mentioned at the top of the call, Jonah

00:12:27 --> 00:12:30: was supposed to be here today to share some of

00:12:30 --> 00:12:33: a direct look into the work that Watersense has been

00:12:33 --> 00:12:36: able to make momentum on in 2025.

00:12:36 --> 00:12:39: And as of early this week, the Watersense staff is

00:12:39 --> 00:12:44: now furloughed alongside hundreds of thousands of other federal workers

00:12:45 --> 00:12:48: that are going without pay and that are not able

00:12:48 --> 00:12:52: to do the critical infrastructure work that so many of

00:12:52 --> 00:12:54: us depend on along Energy Star line.

00:12:54 --> 00:12:59: So Energy Star has much broader public knowledge and

appeal.

00:12:59 --> 00:13:01: And we think that is part of why Energy Star

00:13:02 --> 00:13:05: has been much more targeted than we've seen with energy,

00:13:05 --> 00:13:07: than we've seen with water sense.

00:13:07 --> 00:13:12: The president's proposed budget in early 2025 had a complete

00:13:12 --> 00:13:16: annihilation of the Energy Star budget.

00:13:17 --> 00:13:21: However, similar to Watersense, there was this surge of organizing,

00:13:21 --> 00:13:26: the surge of advocacy, everyone from the Hot Tub Association

00:13:26 --> 00:13:31: to Realtors to environmental nonprofits, to home builders, talking about

00:13:31 --> 00:13:35: the important role that Energy Star plays in our nation's

00:13:35 --> 00:13:40: economy and in the protection of our environment and maintaining

00:13:40 --> 00:13:44: affordable utility bills for residents and businesses.

00:13:44 --> 00:13:47: And that really resonated with Congress.

00:13:47 --> 00:13:52: And so we saw Congressional appropriations committed to continuing Energy

00:13:52 --> 00:13:53: Star funding.

00:13:54 --> 00:13:57: There are obviously lots of connections in terms of the

00:13:57 --> 00:13:59: water energy climate Nexus.

00:13:59 --> 00:14:03: And so as there are implications for energy, so are

00:14:03 --> 00:14:05: there implications for water.

00:14:06 --> 00:14:09: The next big bucket that we've been tracking at the

00:14:09 --> 00:14:13: federal level throughout the year are threats to appliance and

00:14:13 --> 00:14:14: fixture standards.

00:14:16 --> 00:14:21: At towards the beginning of this spring, the President directed

00:14:21 --> 00:14:25: the Department of Energy to change the definition of shower

00:14:25 --> 00:14:29: head and would impact the legal limit of the gallons

00:14:29 --> 00:14:29: per minute.

00:14:30 --> 00:14:35: Our staff and legal representation believe that this new generic

00:14:35 --> 00:14:39: definition doesn't actually allow for a new multi nozzle shower

00:14:39 --> 00:14:40: head.

00:14:40 --> 00:14:44: As we've talked to American manufacturers and appliance makers, we

00:14:44 --> 00:14:47: don't believe that there will be an uptake in creating

00:14:47 --> 00:14:51: kind of Frankenstein esque shower heads that increase the amount

00:14:51 --> 00:14:54: of water used, but yet this is still a threat.

00:14:55 --> 00:15:00: So this was presidential action and then this summer

Representative

00:15:00 --> 00:15:05: Fry from South Carolina introduced parallel legislation that would also

00:15:05 --> 00:15:07: make into law some of these changes.

00:15:08 --> 00:15:12: Other water using devices that have had implications from a

00:15:12 --> 00:15:14: standards perspective.

00:15:15 --> 00:15:19: The DOE received word from President Trump to roll back

00:15:19 --> 00:15:24: and or eliminate a wide range of products that use

00:15:24 --> 00:15:25: energy and water.

00:15:25 --> 00:15:29: This would also eliminate the pre emption waiver, which would

00:15:29 --> 00:15:31: prevent states from having stronger standards.

00:15:31 --> 00:15:34: There are a number of standards or a number of

00:15:34 --> 00:15:37: states across the country that have existing standards and regulations

00:15:37 --> 00:15:40: on the books that are currently stronger than the federal

00:15:40 --> 00:15:41: fixture standards.

00:15:42 --> 00:15:47: Again, in 2025, Midsummer, we saw legislation introduced in the

00:15:47 --> 00:15:52: House by Representative Allen of Georgia, and he introduced the

00:15:52 --> 00:15:55: Don't Mess with My Home Appliances Act.

00:15:55 --> 00:15:59: This would bring about widespread reform to EPCA, the Energy

00:15:59 --> 00:16:03: Policy Conservation Act, which has been on the book for

00:16:03 --> 00:16:07: decades and really protects energy and water use across the

00:16:07 --> 00:16:08: United States.

00:16:09 --> 00:16:13: Something to note for folks tracking Project 2025, there are

00:16:13 --> 00:16:18: specific call outs to water and energy efficiency standards being

00:16:18 --> 00:16:23: repealed and being eliminated through the Department of Energy almost

00:16:23 --> 00:16:26: word for word in Project 2025 that we are seeing

00:16:26 --> 00:16:29: in these recently introduced bills.

00:16:30 --> 00:16:33: As a result of some of these proposed changes that

00:16:33 --> 00:16:37: the DOE move forward with, lots of national organizations came

00:16:37 --> 00:16:41: together to submit formal comments to the Department of Energy.

00:16:42 --> 00:16:47: We joined AWWA, AMWA, NRDC, ASAP and several others to

00:16:47 --> 00:16:50: articulate our policy position.

00:16:51 --> 00:16:54: I believe the deck will be shared afterwards and all

00:16:54 --> 00:16:57: of these are clickable links and it shows the comments

00:16:57 --> 00:17:00: that we submitted as we talked to members, particularly local

00:17:01 --> 00:17:01: water suppliers.
00:17:02 --> 00:17:06: The potential for so much water to be wasted and
00:17:06 --> 00:17:10: real threats to both water supplies and energy grids if
00:17:10 --> 00:17:15: we were to see 30 years of appliance standards revoked
00:17:15 --> 00:17:19: and or weekend would be really significant.
00:17:19 --> 00:17:23: And so AWE intends to move forward with litigation should
00:17:23 --> 00:17:28: these rules for this handful of products pass and move
00:17:28 --> 00:17:29: forward into law.
00:17:32 --> 00:17:35: So what is at stake if things like this were
00:17:35 --> 00:17:38: to move forward, Not only will we see states blocked
00:17:38 --> 00:17:43: from setting standards, which undermines local and tailored solutions to
00:17:43 --> 00:17:47: water efficient or to water challenges, we're also likely to
00:17:47 --> 00:17:51: see less efficient products have impacts directly on local water
00:17:51 --> 00:17:54: supplies which worsen drought conditions.
00:17:55 --> 00:17:58: We're seeing so many strains on our water supplies as
00:17:58 --> 00:18:02: it is both impacts of climate change and then the
00:18:02 --> 00:18:04: widespread explosion of hyperscale AI.
00:18:04 --> 00:18:10: Data centers, particularly in water stressed regions, have real implications
00:18:10 --> 00:18:14: for demand planning and ensuring that folks basic needs are
00:18:14 --> 00:18:16: met for their use of water.
00:18:17 --> 00:18:21: In a report created by the Department of Energy itself
00:18:21 --> 00:18:25: in 2024, they reported that federal efficiency standards reduced a
00:18:25 --> 00:18:29: typical household's utility bill by nearly $600 a year and
00:18:29 --> 00:18:32: saved 1.7 trillion gallons of water.
00:18:32 --> 00:18:35: So you can imagine, if you were to see widespread
00:18:35 --> 00:18:38: repeal of several of these standards, the implications that this
00:18:38 --> 00:18:42: would have for water supplies and water basins across the
00:18:42 --> 00:18:42: US.
00:18:44 --> 00:18:47: That's the big picture at the federal level.
00:18:47 --> 00:18:50: As we zoom into some of the work that's probably
00:18:51 --> 00:18:54: a bit more applicable to what y'all are doing day
00:18:54 --> 00:18:57: in and day out, we'll take a glance at what
00:18:57 --> 00:19:00: this means for state and local governments.
00:19:01 --> 00:19:04: A resource I wanted to highlight for you all is
00:19:04 --> 00:19:05: our State Policy Scorecard.
00:19:06 --> 00:19:09: So we have released 3 iterations of this over the
00:19:09 --> 00:19:09: years.
00:19:09 --> 00:19:13: Early in 2023, we released the 2022 State Policy Scorecard
00:19:13 --> 00:19:18: for Water Efficiency and Sustainability, and this is a massive

00:19:18 --> 00:19:19: undertaking.

00:19:19 --> 00:19:23: We do alongside all 50 States and we work with

00:19:23 --> 00:19:29: state officials to gather and to synthesize data and legislation

00:19:29 --> 00:19:30: on the books.

00:19:30 --> 00:19:33: And then we rank states based on their adoptions of

00:19:33 --> 00:19:38: laws and policies that advance water efficiency, conservation, sustainability, and

00:19:38 --> 00:19:38: affordability.

00:19:39 --> 00:19:42: This is available on our website and it has both

00:19:43 --> 00:19:44: a large report.

00:19:44 --> 00:19:47: We look at region by region rankings and then there

00:19:47 --> 00:19:51: are individual scorecards for all 50 states that have specific

00:19:51 --> 00:19:56: recommendations of types of policies or practices they could adopt

00:19:56 --> 00:20:00: to move water efficiency and conservation forward in their state.

00:20:00 --> 00:20:03: What's exciting about a report like this is we know

00:20:03 --> 00:20:05: that water is a bipartisan issue.

00:20:05 --> 00:20:09: Whether you are living in a rural community, an urban

00:20:09 --> 00:20:12: community, a red state, a blue state, a purple state,

00:20:12 --> 00:20:13: water is critical.

00:20:13 --> 00:20:16: And so we don't see the kind of bipartisan or

00:20:16 --> 00:20:19: we don't see the kind of partisan ranking in terms

00:20:19 --> 00:20:22: of which states pop up really highly ranked versus which

00:20:22 --> 00:20:22: are really.

00:20:23 --> 00:20:24: Ranked poorly.

00:20:25 --> 00:20:28: One of the components in this resource is a state

00:20:29 --> 00:20:33: fixture matrix which evaluates 6 fixtures and looks at when

00:20:33 --> 00:20:37: various laws were adopted and that is also available on

00:20:38 --> 00:20:38: our website.

00:20:38 --> 00:20:41: Believe Lindsay will also briefly be speaking to that in

00:20:42 --> 00:20:43: her presentation as well.

00:20:43 --> 00:20:46: This is an an Excel based document that you can

00:20:46 --> 00:20:50: use to review and see both some of the opportunities

00:20:50 --> 00:20:53: and gaps that might exist in your specific state or

00:20:54 --> 00:20:57: region, other trends that we're seeing in state and local

00:20:57 --> 00:21:00: policies both in 2025 and in recent years.

00:21:01 --> 00:21:06: One is changes to homeowners associations and the role that

00:21:06 --> 00:21:09: they play in impacting water wise landscapes.

00:21:10 --> 00:21:14: The Texas Legislature earlier this year passed House Bill 517,

00:21:14 --> 00:21:19: which helps really protect local water supplies and

encourages things
00:21:19 --> 00:21:21: like water wise landscaping.
00:21:22 --> 00:21:27: It bans mandatory grass or turf installation, prohibits restrictions undrought
00:21:27 --> 00:21:31: resistant landscaping and encourages rainwater harvesting.
00:21:32 --> 00:21:36: We've seen similar bills adopted across the western US in
00:21:36 --> 00:21:38: the last several of years.
00:21:38 --> 00:21:41: If you do live in Texas, a water bill to
00:21:42 --> 00:21:45: flag is Prop 4, which will be going before voters
00:21:46 --> 00:21:48: in a couple of weeks here.
00:21:48 --> 00:21:51: And that would set aside $20 billion to invest in
00:21:51 --> 00:21:55: infrastructure for water across the state of Texas.
00:21:55 --> 00:21:57: And it has some cool implications for conservation.
00:21:58 --> 00:22:00: So if you live in the Lone Star State, something
00:22:00 --> 00:22:01: to look into.
00:22:01 --> 00:22:05: Other trends that we've seen are non functional turf bands.
00:22:05 --> 00:22:08: So non functional turf, which I'm sure many of you
00:22:08 --> 00:22:12: are aware of, is the grass that is not used
00:22:12 --> 00:22:14: for much other than decoration.
00:22:14 --> 00:22:18: So this might be grass alongside a road or a
00:22:18 --> 00:22:24: lawn or grass outside of a commercial, a commercial, institutional
00:22:24 --> 00:22:26: or industrial building.
00:22:27 --> 00:22:30: A number of states have adopted NFT bands to varying
00:22:30 --> 00:22:35: extents and looking at different pieces of populations, whether that's
00:22:35 --> 00:22:38: more commercially focused or residentially focused.
00:22:39 --> 00:22:43: And then a number of specific municipalities have also adopted
00:22:43 --> 00:22:46: local ordinances, another trend that we've seen a lot of
00:22:46 --> 00:22:48: our Iatmos water demand calculator.
00:22:49 --> 00:22:52: And so that's this graphic here on the right and
00:22:52 --> 00:22:55: it shows you which cities and or states have adopted
00:22:55 --> 00:22:59: this and or required the water demand calculator that helps
00:22:59 --> 00:23:03: communities and buildings think through right sizing of your pipes
00:23:04 --> 00:23:07: and the demand that will be generated from that specific
00:23:07 --> 00:23:08: building.
00:23:10 --> 00:23:14: Another resource I wanted to highlight for y'all AWE has
00:23:14 --> 00:23:19: a really strong chapter in California called Calup, the California
00:23:19 --> 00:23:24: Water Efficiency Partnership, and just a few weeks ago launched
00:23:24 --> 00:23:30: nonfunctional Turfcaorg which helps communities implement

California AB1572, which outlaws

00:23:31 --> 00:23:37: potable water for nonfunctional turf at commercial, institutional, industrial and

00:23:37 --> 00:23:39: homeowners association shared spaces.

00:23:40 --> 00:23:43: Sorry for the alphabet soup that is on this slide.

00:23:44 --> 00:23:49: This has really, really helpful practical resources from fact sheets

00:23:49 --> 00:23:54: that you can use with local licensed landscape professionals.

00:23:54 --> 00:23:58: There are case studies, there are our internal guidebooks that

00:23:58 --> 00:24:02: water utility agencies can utilize as they think through compliance

00:24:02 --> 00:24:06: with this really significant piece of legislation that will roll

00:24:06 --> 00:24:07: out in California.

00:24:09 --> 00:24:12: The last thing I wanted to highlight along local and

00:24:12 --> 00:24:16: state lines are folks are using a combination of both

00:24:16 --> 00:24:18: carrot and stick approaches.

00:24:19 --> 00:24:21: One of we we've seen more of the sticks on

00:24:21 --> 00:24:24: the past slide, but one of the carrots that we

00:24:24 --> 00:24:28: see more and more municipalities, water utility agencies and state

00:24:29 --> 00:24:31: organizations adopting our incentives.

00:24:31 --> 00:24:35: So these are rebates from everything from water saving products

00:24:35 --> 00:24:40: and practices, irrigation system efficiencies or updates, more efficient fixtures

00:24:40 --> 00:24:43: and appliances and landscape transformations.

00:24:44 --> 00:24:47: Again, a change in one system impacts the change in

00:24:47 --> 00:24:50: the rest, and some of the work that AWE is

00:24:50 --> 00:24:53: doing along these lines with some of you on this

00:24:53 --> 00:24:56: call is advocating for the Water Conservation Rebate Tax Parity

00:24:56 --> 00:25:00: Act, which has been introduced before a number of congresses.

00:25:00 --> 00:25:04: This would end the taxation of water rebates.

00:25:04 --> 00:25:08: Right now if you receive a rebate or an incentive

00:25:08 --> 00:25:13: from your local water utility to transform your grass in

00:25:13 --> 00:25:18: your front yard to more either climate appropriate landscaping or

00:25:18 --> 00:25:24: drought resistant turf, that is considered taxable income by the

00:25:24 --> 00:25:26: federal government.

00:25:26 --> 00:25:28: And the water utility not only has to issue a

00:25:28 --> 00:25:31: 1099, but then you are also taxed on it at

00:25:31 --> 00:25:33: tax season in April.

00:25:33 --> 00:25:35: And so we are working to change that.

00:25:35 --> 00:25:38: This has not been the case on the energy efficient

00:25:38 --> 00:25:41: incentive lines since the early 90s, so there's some good

00:25:41 --> 00:25:43: opportunity to change this legislation.

00:25:43 --> 00:25:47: It would have low level impacts to the federal budget,

00:25:47 --> 00:25:49: but be meaningful for homeowners and utilities.

00:25:50 --> 00:25:53: And in a happy bout of bipartisan news, we have

00:25:53 --> 00:25:56: seen this introduced in both the House and the Senate

00:25:56 --> 00:26:01: with Republican leadership from Utah and Democratic leadership from California,

00:26:01 --> 00:26:04: which has been really encouraging to see.

00:26:04 --> 00:26:08: If you are connected with your congressional delegation and would

00:26:08 --> 00:26:12: be interested in learning more, getting involved in this particular

00:26:12 --> 00:26:15: tax parity equity work, I would love to connect with

00:26:15 --> 00:26:16: you.

00:26:17 --> 00:26:22: And with that, I will start wrapping up big picture.

00:26:22 --> 00:26:24: As we look at what's happening at the federal level,

00:26:24 --> 00:26:26: there is a lot of uncertainty.

00:26:26 --> 00:26:30: I would say largely the environment at the national level

00:26:30 --> 00:26:33: is one that is really moving towards deregulation.

00:26:34 --> 00:26:37: As a result, I think there are some really hopeful

00:26:37 --> 00:26:41: opportunities for us to meaningfully conserve our water and use

00:26:41 --> 00:26:44: it efficiently and protect our natural resources at the state

00:26:44 --> 00:26:45: and local level.

00:26:45 --> 00:26:48: And this will be increasingly important as we see the

00:26:48 --> 00:26:52: demands of climate change, as we see the demands that

00:26:52 --> 00:26:55: tech will work require of us and our water supplies.

00:26:55 --> 00:26:58: So there is good work for all of us to

00:26:58 --> 00:27:00: be done as we move forward in our shared work.

00:27:01 --> 00:27:05: With that I will stop sharing and answer any questions

00:27:05 --> 00:27:07: you all might have.

00:27:08 --> 00:27:09: Thank you so much.

00:27:09 --> 00:27:09: Kelly.

00:27:09 --> 00:27:11: Looks like we already have a question from Sarah.

00:27:12 --> 00:27:13: Do you Sarah, do you want to just unmute and

00:27:13 --> 00:27:14: ask your question?

00:27:17 --> 00:27:17: Sure.

00:27:17 --> 00:27:17: Thank you.

00:27:18 --> 00:27:19: Can you hear me OK?

00:27:19 --> 00:27:20: Yes, OK, great.

00:27:21 --> 00:27:24: So I'm, I'm curious about those, the water incentives that
00:27:24 --> 00:27:27: you mentioned and how those are funded.
00:27:27 --> 00:27:32: Particularly in Oklahoma where I'm based, cities are not allowed
00:27:32 --> 00:27:36: to tap into property taxes to fund operations and maintenance.
00:27:37 --> 00:27:40: And so we have a giant backlog of maintenance.
00:27:40 --> 00:27:43: And so I'm curious where the where that funding came
00:27:43 --> 00:27:47: from because yeah, stormwater impact fees or or what so
00:27:47 --> 00:27:50: that I can pass recommendations along to my colleagues.
00:27:51 --> 00:27:54: Absolutely and happy to connect you with folks that are,
00:27:55 --> 00:27:58: you know, there's a broad spectrum of water utilities that
00:27:58 --> 00:28:02: are doing programs like this from small, smaller dollar things
00:28:02 --> 00:28:07: like changing out old inefficient toilets to full massive landscape
00:28:07 --> 00:28:09: transformations at a commercial space.
00:28:10 --> 00:28:11: I think it really varies.
00:28:11 --> 00:28:16: Some of this is unrestricted funds from either the municipality
00:28:16 --> 00:28:18: and or the utility.
00:28:18 --> 00:28:24: Some of this are matched dollars from grants or wider
00:28:24 --> 00:28:28: or organizations in the region.
00:28:29 --> 00:28:31: I think there's some level of variability there.
00:28:32 --> 00:28:33: OK, fantastic.
00:28:33 --> 00:28:33: Awesome.
00:28:33 --> 00:28:34: Thanks so much.
00:28:34 --> 00:28:35: Yeah.
00:28:38 --> 00:28:40: You have any other questions for Kelly?
00:28:45 --> 00:28:48: And I'll just note that our next speaker, Lindsay Rogers,
00:28:48 --> 00:28:52: will dive further into those local trends, so we'll have
00:28:52 --> 00:28:54: more information about those as well.
00:28:58 --> 00:29:00: OK, I'm not seeing any other questions right now.
00:29:00 --> 00:29:03: If you do have questions that you think of, please
00:29:03 --> 00:29:05: put them in the chat box and Kelly can respond
00:29:05 --> 00:29:06: there.
00:29:06 --> 00:29:09: And also we'll have time for group discussion after both
00:29:09 --> 00:29:10: presentations.
00:29:11 --> 00:29:11: All right.
00:29:11 --> 00:29:13: I'm going to turn it over to our next speaker,
00:29:13 --> 00:29:14: Lindsay Rogers.
00:29:16 --> 00:29:16: OK.
00:29:23 --> 00:29:23: Great.
00:29:24 --> 00:29:25: Thanks, Marianne.
00:29:25 --> 00:29:28: Let me get this started.

00:29:31 --> 00:29:34: OK, How's that Perfect.
00:29:34 --> 00:29:34: Thank you.
00:29:36 --> 00:29:39: Thanks everyone for joining us today.
00:29:39 --> 00:29:42: My name is Lindsay Rogers and the policy manager for
00:29:42 --> 00:29:45: Municipal conservation at Western Resource Advocates.
00:29:45 --> 00:29:48: And I am here today to talk about some of
00:29:48 --> 00:29:53: those trends and bright spots in state and local water
00:29:53 --> 00:29:55: wise land use policy.
00:29:57 --> 00:29:59: Also, I'll touch on a little bit how state and
00:30:00 --> 00:30:03: local entities to build off of Kelly's presentations may be
00:30:03 --> 00:30:07: impacted by federal changes and also how we how we
00:30:07 --> 00:30:10: can use these policies arenas to help shore up a
00:30:10 --> 00:30:13: potential lack of federal support in some of these areas.
00:30:18 --> 00:30:22: OK, if you're not familiar with WRA, we're an environmental
00:30:22 --> 00:30:25: non profit and we work across 7 states in the
00:30:25 --> 00:30:29: Interior W to protect our climate, land, air and water.
00:30:29 --> 00:30:33: And we do that by developing or adopting advocating for
00:30:33 --> 00:30:38: policy solutions and working with decision makers like state legislatures
00:30:38 --> 00:30:42: or local governments to help implement those solutions.
00:30:42 --> 00:30:45: And my work on our Healthy Rivers team is really
00:30:45 --> 00:30:50: focused on advancing municipal water conservation and the integration of
00:30:50 --> 00:30:53: water and land use planning programs and policies so that
00:30:53 --> 00:30:57: we can both build more climate resilient communities and also
00:30:57 --> 00:31:01: ensure we're reducing the strain on on very limited water
00:31:01 --> 00:31:02: resources in the West.
00:31:06 --> 00:31:10: So I am going to walk us through 5 policy
00:31:10 --> 00:31:10: areas.
00:31:11 --> 00:31:14: I'm going to focus in on what's happening at the
00:31:14 --> 00:31:18: state level within the Colorado River Basin in recent years.
00:31:18 --> 00:31:21: And then I'm going to provide just a few examples
00:31:21 --> 00:31:24: of how these policies can be adopted locally or implemented
00:31:24 --> 00:31:24: locally.
00:31:25 --> 00:31:29: I thought about lots of different policy areas, but I
00:31:29 --> 00:31:32: wanted to stick with these 5 because I think they're
00:31:32 --> 00:31:36: the most closely aligned to, you know, helping us ensure
00:31:36 --> 00:31:39: water wise land use policy or the integration of water
00:31:39 --> 00:31:41: into land use planning.
00:31:41 --> 00:31:43: But it's certainly not an exhaustive lesson.
00:31:43 --> 00:31:47: I'm happy to take questions or have more discussion after
00:31:47 --> 00:31:49: about other opportunities.

00:31:53 --> 00:31:57: So I'll kick it off with water efficient fixture standards,

00:31:57 --> 00:32:00: which Kelly gave a great background on this and I

00:32:00 --> 00:32:03: think, you know, hopefully we're all aligned that these are

00:32:03 --> 00:32:07: really valuable tool both for water savings and for our

00:32:07 --> 00:32:07: ratepayers.

00:32:08 --> 00:32:11: So there are four out of our seven basin states

00:32:11 --> 00:32:16: that have adopted fixture standards that exceed federal efficiency requirements

00:32:17 --> 00:32:19: and those are in green on this map.

00:32:20 --> 00:32:24: In Nevada, the state standards are fully aligned with water

00:32:25 --> 00:32:25: sense.

00:32:25 --> 00:32:29: So water sense picture standards are at the bottom of

00:32:29 --> 00:32:30: this this table.

00:32:31 --> 00:32:35: In California and Colorado, their codes are either aligned with

00:32:35 --> 00:32:38: water and sense or in some cases which you can

00:32:38 --> 00:32:41: see in bold, they exceed or are more restrictive than

00:32:41 --> 00:32:42: water sense.

00:32:43 --> 00:32:46: And then Utah is partially aligned with water sense for

00:32:46 --> 00:32:50: shower heads, urinals and faucets, but they haven't adopted those

00:32:51 --> 00:32:54: same standards for sprinkler bodies or or toilets.

00:32:55 --> 00:32:58: Another thing that I wanted to flag is that Colorado,

00:32:58 --> 00:33:02: Nevada and California all have point of sale standards, So

00:33:02 --> 00:33:06: only fixtures that meet these efficiency requirements can be sold

00:33:06 --> 00:33:07: in the state at all.

00:33:08 --> 00:33:11: Utah has just adopted the standards into their plumbing code,

00:33:11 --> 00:33:13: so they only applied a new development.

00:33:13 --> 00:33:16: So that's just a distinction that you'll see in in

00:33:16 --> 00:33:17: some of these different states.

00:33:19 --> 00:33:21: And I did want to just give a plug for

00:33:21 --> 00:33:23: AW ES reach research in this area.

00:33:23 --> 00:33:27: And the matrix that that Kelly mentioned lists out the

00:33:27 --> 00:33:30: 26 states that have adopted standards that are are more

00:33:31 --> 00:33:33: restrictive than the federal regulations.

00:33:35 --> 00:33:38: I think with the uncertainty of how things will play

00:33:38 --> 00:33:41: out at the federal level, we think it's really important

00:33:41 --> 00:33:45: that states have adopted codes that are really clear about

00:33:45 --> 00:33:48: what their standards actually are and that spell out the

00:33:48 --> 00:33:53: efficiency levels and also include language that protect protect against

00:33:53 --> 00:33:56: federal repeal, which we see in Colorado standards.

00:33:57 --> 00:34:00: And also, you know, the more states that adopt water
00:34:00 --> 00:34:04: sense or these stronger standards, the less powerful the federal
00:34:04 --> 00:34:09: fixture standards really become because hopefully manufacturers just won't have
00:34:09 --> 00:34:12: a large enough market to invest in those water intensive
00:34:13 --> 00:34:13: products.
00:34:14 --> 00:34:18: And so really seeing further adoption at the state level
00:34:18 --> 00:34:22: of of these efficient requirements would be really valuable.
00:34:23 --> 00:34:26: And then finally, Kelly mentioned we, we do need states
00:34:27 --> 00:34:31: to be positioned to push back against potential federal preemption.
00:34:32 --> 00:34:35: And it sounds, it seems, that there are many Attorney
00:34:35 --> 00:34:37: General's offices that are already prepared to do so.
00:34:43 --> 00:34:46: OK, so to take it down to the local level
00:34:46 --> 00:34:50: for a minute, city and county of Denver in 2022
00:34:50 --> 00:34:54: adopted an updated Denver Green code and it's based on
00:34:54 --> 00:34:58: the International Green Construction Code.
00:34:58 --> 00:35:01: So it has lots and lots of standards, but one
00:35:01 --> 00:35:04: thing that it does is it's a, it's adopts these
00:35:04 --> 00:35:09: really hyper efficient plumbing fixture standards and it's not mandatory,
00:35:09 --> 00:35:13: but it's incentivized now through a tap fee credit for
00:35:13 --> 00:35:17: commercial, industrial, institutional and multifamily new development.
00:35:18 --> 00:35:20: And then they also have a pick list.
00:35:20 --> 00:35:23: So you have to select from at least one water
00:35:23 --> 00:35:25: efficiency measure.
00:35:25 --> 00:35:28: So it's, it's a incentive approach.
00:35:29 --> 00:35:32: And as you can see, they're really moving towards these
00:35:32 --> 00:35:35: very highly efficient fixtures that exceed water sense and even
00:35:35 --> 00:35:37: the the California standards.
00:35:37 --> 00:35:40: So those are technologies that exist and that we might
00:35:41 --> 00:35:43: start to see more of in recent years.
00:35:43 --> 00:35:46: And I think it's a really good idea of how
00:35:46 --> 00:35:49: a local jurisdiction can be an early adopter and help
00:35:49 --> 00:35:52: to drive broader change in the industry.
00:35:52 --> 00:35:55: And I see that Austin is Austin with Denver water
00:35:55 --> 00:35:57: is on the call with us today.
00:35:57 --> 00:35:59: So I'll put them on the spot if you guys
00:35:59 --> 00:36:00: have specific questions about that.
00:36:04 --> 00:36:07: So moving over to non functional turf, in recent years

00:36:07 --> 00:36:11: across the basin, there's been lots and lots of emphasis
00:36:11 --> 00:36:16: behind limiting water intensive turf grass and replacing that with
00:36:16 --> 00:36:19: water wise climate appropriate landscaping.
00:36:19 --> 00:36:23: And Kelly mentioned that these are, you know, the four
00:36:23 --> 00:36:27: states that have adopted regulations to limit non functional turf
00:36:27 --> 00:36:27: grass.
00:36:28 --> 00:36:30: Nevada was first.
00:36:30 --> 00:36:33: So they prohibited the use of Colorado River water on
00:36:33 --> 00:36:37: non functional turf grass in commercial and HOA properties.
00:36:38 --> 00:36:41: And the implementation date for that is 2027.
00:36:41 --> 00:36:44: So that means that by 2027 all those areas of
00:36:44 --> 00:36:48: non functional turf in Southern Nevada will need to be
00:36:48 --> 00:36:51: converted to water wise landscapes.
00:36:51 --> 00:36:55: And Southern Nevada Water Authority has invested a really huge
00:36:55 --> 00:36:59: amount of effort and money into identifying those areas of
00:36:59 --> 00:37:03: turf and notifying the the the property managers and then
00:37:03 --> 00:37:06: incentivizing their removal and replacement.
00:37:06 --> 00:37:10: I think they offer somewhere, somewhere around $2.00 all the
00:37:10 --> 00:37:13: way up to $5 for different per square foot for
00:37:13 --> 00:37:15: different projects.
00:37:16 --> 00:37:22: California in 2023 adopted a similar bill that Kelly mentioned.
00:37:22 --> 00:37:24: That's AB1572.
00:37:24 --> 00:37:27: It prohibits the use of potable water to irrigate non
00:37:28 --> 00:37:32: functional turf areas on commercial and institutional properties.
00:37:32 --> 00:37:37: And that has sort of a rolling implementation timeline between
00:37:37 --> 00:37:41: 2027 and 2031 in Cow Web, you know, has developed
00:37:41 --> 00:37:47: these resources to support support the implementation of that legislation.
00:37:48 --> 00:37:51: And then Utah and Colorado took a different approach.
00:37:51 --> 00:37:53: So instead of banning and requiring turf grass to be
00:37:53 --> 00:37:57: removed, they're limiting where new turf grass can be installed
00:37:57 --> 00:37:58: in new development.
00:37:59 --> 00:38:02: In 2023, Utah passed a bill that requires cities and
00:38:02 --> 00:38:06: counties that want their community members to be eligible for
00:38:06 --> 00:38:11: the state's turf replacement funding program to adopt water efficiency
00:38:11 --> 00:38:12: standards that limit turf.

00:38:14 --> 00:38:16: So they they say that you need to put in
00:38:16 --> 00:38:20: place a landscape code that that limits turf to no
00:38:20 --> 00:38:23: more than the more no more than 20% of the
00:38:23 --> 00:38:26: landscaped area for CIA, no turf in narrow areas.
00:38:26 --> 00:38:29: Some other requirements and if cities aren't required to do
00:38:29 --> 00:38:32: that, but if they don't do that, then their residents
00:38:32 --> 00:38:33: don't get turf replacement funds.
00:38:34 --> 00:38:36: So they've kind of like combined this carrot and stick
00:38:36 --> 00:38:37: approach.
00:38:39 --> 00:38:42: And then finally in Colorado over the past two years,
00:38:43 --> 00:38:47: the state's adopted a couple bills that prohibit installing new
00:38:47 --> 00:38:51: non functional turf first on CII properties and then on
00:38:51 --> 00:38:53: multifamily properties.
00:38:54 --> 00:38:58: And they also now require cities and counties to limit
00:38:58 --> 00:39:03: new, new turf grass on residential properties in some way.
00:39:03 --> 00:39:05: So it gives a lot of flexibility to what that
00:39:05 --> 00:39:07: local standard will look like.
00:39:08 --> 00:39:12: And those will go into effect beginning of 2026 and
00:39:12 --> 00:39:12: 2028.
00:39:14 --> 00:39:16: So these are all coming online now.
00:39:16 --> 00:39:20: And what I think is going to be really interesting
00:39:20 --> 00:39:23: is to look back over the next couple of years
00:39:23 --> 00:39:26: and actually, you know, as we start to see States
00:39:26 --> 00:39:30: and water providers start assessing the impact of these different
00:39:30 --> 00:39:34: requirements on their jurisdictions on their water savings and you
00:39:34 --> 00:39:38: know, and what what other outcomes we see from this.
00:39:42 --> 00:39:45: So to take it down to I guess the local
00:39:45 --> 00:39:49: level into Colorado, WRA and our partners at the Brundle
00:39:49 --> 00:39:54: Group with support from Colorado Water Conservation Board have been
00:39:54 --> 00:39:58: working on a project over the last year or so
00:39:58 --> 00:40:03: to support communities in implementing the the state's turf limit
00:40:03 --> 00:40:04: requirements.
00:40:04 --> 00:40:05: And so we've developed.
00:40:06 --> 00:40:09: Lots of different resources that are all publicly available on
00:40:09 --> 00:40:11: the link here and I think my my Co worker
00:40:12 --> 00:40:14: Chelsea's going to put that in the chat.
00:40:14 --> 00:40:18: But one thing we've been really focused on is how
00:40:18 --> 00:40:22: we can support smaller and under resourced communities that really

00:40:23 --> 00:40:27: have very limited capacity to develop and enforce a code
00:40:27 --> 00:40:28: on on that limits turf.
00:40:29 --> 00:40:33: So that's what we've developed these streamlined templates and process
00:40:33 --> 00:40:36: these guys for and now we're working with our partners
00:40:36 --> 00:40:40: to provide some more hands on technical assistance for small
00:40:40 --> 00:40:41: communities.
00:40:45 --> 00:40:50: All right, so moving on to landscape and irrigation contractors,
00:40:50 --> 00:40:54: and there's three basin states that I'm aware of that
00:40:54 --> 00:40:58: have some kind of state level landscape and irrigation contractor
00:40:58 --> 00:40:59: license.
00:40:59 --> 00:41:02: This would be different from a landscape architect license, which
00:41:02 --> 00:41:03: is more ubiquitous.
00:41:05 --> 00:41:08: These licenses are typically used both to promote, you know,
00:41:08 --> 00:41:12: consumer protection, but also they can be designed to help
00:41:12 --> 00:41:16: ensure that landscape and irrigators have the knowledge and the
00:41:16 --> 00:41:20: tools they need to design and install and maintain landscapes
00:41:20 --> 00:41:24: and irrigation systems that are water wise and efficient.
00:41:24 --> 00:41:29: And you'll see that that these examples have some similarities.
00:41:29 --> 00:41:33: So both California and Nevada have a four year journey
00:41:33 --> 00:41:35: level experience requirement.
00:41:35 --> 00:41:39: We have to, you know, practice under a experienced landscape
00:41:39 --> 00:41:40: contractor.
00:41:41 --> 00:41:43: I also have an exam component.
00:41:43 --> 00:41:46: And then Utah requires a pre licensure course in annual
00:41:46 --> 00:41:48: continuing education units.
00:41:49 --> 00:41:51: And one thing I wanted to point out is that
00:41:52 --> 00:41:55: California has a unique component which is related to their
00:41:55 --> 00:42:00: their state level required model water efficient landscape ordinance and
00:42:00 --> 00:42:03: that requires a third party irrigation audit from a certified
00:42:04 --> 00:42:08: landscape irrigation auditor for certain new development and redevelopment.
00:42:09 --> 00:42:12: And that has really motivated a lot of contractors to
00:42:12 --> 00:42:18: get additional certification through Quell the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper
00:42:18 --> 00:42:22: Training or IA Irrigation Association so that they can be

00:42:23 --> 00:42:26: able to take part in that work and perform those
00:42:26 --> 00:42:27: audits.
00:42:27 --> 00:42:31: So that that's another kind of opportunity that California has
00:42:32 --> 00:42:36: seized on in Colorado for a number of years, there's
00:42:36 --> 00:42:41: been kind of interest in exploring some kind of certification
00:42:41 --> 00:42:42: or licensure.
00:42:42 --> 00:42:46: And in 2023, WA released this report, which you can
00:42:46 --> 00:42:50: also find on our our landscape hub.
00:42:50 --> 00:42:54: And since then, we've been working on a project to
00:42:54 --> 00:42:57: really dig in and and try to understand how a
00:42:57 --> 00:43:02: state level license could potentially impact the landscape and irrigation
00:43:02 --> 00:43:05: industry in the state and really make sure we hear
00:43:05 --> 00:43:08: from folks that would be directly affected.
00:43:10 --> 00:43:12: But in the absence of a state license, in some
00:43:12 --> 00:43:16: cases, Colorado cities and water providers have stepped in to
00:43:16 --> 00:43:16: fill the gap.
00:43:16 --> 00:43:19: So that's, this is an example of Castle Rock water
00:43:19 --> 00:43:23: in the South Denver metro area that that requires landscape
00:43:23 --> 00:43:26: companies to register with the town and then they designate
00:43:26 --> 00:43:30: one or more registered landscape professionals who have to participate
00:43:30 --> 00:43:34: in a quail training and maintain their their certification.
00:43:39 --> 00:43:42: So we've also seen a shift in recent years toward
00:43:42 --> 00:43:46: states requiring cities and counties to incorporate water, and specifically
00:43:46 --> 00:43:50: water use efficiency into their long range general or comprehensive
00:43:50 --> 00:43:51: plans.
00:43:51 --> 00:43:56: And the general plan really establishes the foundation for integrating
00:43:56 --> 00:43:59: water into land use planning policy because it's it sets
00:43:59 --> 00:44:03: the direction for where and how the community will grow
00:44:03 --> 00:44:06: over the next 20 years, sometimes longer.
00:44:06 --> 00:44:10: And it's really critical for a community to understand if
00:44:10 --> 00:44:14: it will have sufficient water to meet that growth, obviously,
00:44:14 --> 00:44:18: and if there are policies that they can adopt, like
00:44:18 --> 00:44:22: updating zoning codes or, you know, landscaping codes that can
00:44:22 --> 00:44:25: help, you know, reduce their future demands.
00:44:26 --> 00:44:29: So we now see policies in five out of the
00:44:29 --> 00:44:33: safe 7 basin states that have some kind of water
00:44:33 --> 00:44:38: related requirement in their landscape, I'm sorry, in their

general
00:44:38 --> 00:44:39: plans.
00:44:39 --> 00:44:42: And then I included a language from just a few
00:44:42 --> 00:44:44: of those that I'm most familiar with.
00:44:45 --> 00:44:48: Arizona was the first state to require a specific water
00:44:48 --> 00:44:50: element in 2019.
00:44:50 --> 00:44:53: And the unique thing about Arizona, which is not the
00:44:53 --> 00:44:56: case at least in Utah, Colorado, is that the general
00:44:56 --> 00:45:00: plan is actually a legally binding regulatory document.
00:45:00 --> 00:45:03: In Utah, Colorado, it serves as more of a guidance
00:45:03 --> 00:45:04: document.
00:45:06 --> 00:45:11: Utah adopted their requirements in 2022 and then Colorado updated
00:45:11 --> 00:45:15: their their water supply element requirement in 2023.
00:45:16 --> 00:45:22: So communities in those in those states are, are now
00:45:22 --> 00:45:28: working to be compliant to bring it down to the
00:45:28 --> 00:45:30: local level.
00:45:30 --> 00:45:34: We are currently supporting Summit County in Utah to develop
00:45:34 --> 00:45:37: the water element of their general plans.
00:45:38 --> 00:45:40: And Summit County is is interesting because they have these
00:45:40 --> 00:45:43: two planning divisions that are pretty different.
00:45:43 --> 00:45:46: The Snyderville Basin is in the West, that's where Park
00:45:46 --> 00:45:46: City is located.
00:45:47 --> 00:45:50: And then Eastern Summit is much more rural, more of
00:45:50 --> 00:45:51: an agricultural economy.
00:45:52 --> 00:45:55: And not sure if you all remember this, but in
00:45:55 --> 00:45:59: 2021, Summit County made some national headlines because they had
00:45:59 --> 00:46:04: two towns that implemented building moratoriums during a really record-breaking
00:46:05 --> 00:46:06: drought conditions.
00:46:07 --> 00:46:10: So they've got, they've got some water scarcity challenges.
00:46:10 --> 00:46:13: And then like many, many of our communities, residents have
00:46:13 --> 00:46:17: a fairly strong anti development sentiment, But that's running up
00:46:17 --> 00:46:21: against a very pro development state legislature in Utah that's
00:46:21 --> 00:46:24: that's worked a lot in recent years to adopt policies
00:46:24 --> 00:46:26: that remove barriers to growth.
00:46:26 --> 00:46:31: So there's a real interesting intersection happening here and we've
00:46:31 --> 00:46:35: proposed these are a few of the strategies that are

00:46:35 --> 00:46:39: proposed in their plan that I think, you know, our

00:46:39 --> 00:46:43: policies that we can see have are applicable in other

00:46:43 --> 00:46:44: places as well.

00:46:44 --> 00:46:45: They've.

00:46:45 --> 00:46:51: They're hoping to encourage some coordinated Regional Water conservation plans

00:46:51 --> 00:46:53: and drought response plans.

00:46:54 --> 00:46:57: Just in their east, in Eastern Summit, they have over

00:46:57 --> 00:46:58: 25 water providers.

00:46:58 --> 00:47:02: There's really a need here for some more coordination.

00:47:02 --> 00:47:05: They want to update their landscape code.

00:47:05 --> 00:47:09: They want to switch up their development review process so

00:47:09 --> 00:47:13: that they have earlier and more frequent communication with their

00:47:13 --> 00:47:14: water providers.

00:47:14 --> 00:47:19: And then they're looking at zoning code amendments as well

00:47:19 --> 00:47:22: to encourage more water wise development types.

00:47:25 --> 00:47:30: OK, finally, Marianne, am I doing all right on time?

00:47:32 --> 00:47:33: OK, I see a knot.

00:47:34 --> 00:47:37: So now I'm going to talk a little bit about

00:47:37 --> 00:47:40: state funding and state funding and support can be really

00:47:41 --> 00:47:44: critical to help fill federal funding gaps for water wise

00:47:44 --> 00:47:45: land use planning.

00:47:46 --> 00:47:50: But you know, unfortunately some state funding is also partially

00:47:50 --> 00:47:53: reliant on federal funds or more generally, you know, some

00:47:53 --> 00:47:57: state budgets have been impacted by federal cutbacks, which means

00:47:57 --> 00:48:01: they might have less general fund dollars to dedicated to

00:48:01 --> 00:48:02: water related funds.

00:48:02 --> 00:48:06: So those are all sort of caveats on on receding

00:48:06 --> 00:48:07: state funding.

00:48:09 --> 00:48:14: Colorado is really fortunate and in somewhat a unique position

00:48:14 --> 00:48:19: that voters passed Proposition DD in 2019 and that legalized

00:48:19 --> 00:48:23: sports betting, but it also from the tax revenue of

00:48:23 --> 00:48:28: sports betting created a dedicated fund for water projects and

00:48:28 --> 00:48:34: that's allocated to the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Colorado Water

00:48:34 --> 00:48:35: Plan grant funds.

00:48:36 --> 00:48:40: So that's, you know, a really robust and successful and

00:48:40 --> 00:48:45: fairly stable source of funding that's able been able to

00:48:45 --> 00:48:50: support things like the growing water smart program, turf

replacement

00:48:51 --> 00:48:56: projects, metering and water elements in general plans and DOLA

00:48:56 --> 00:49:01: Department of Local Affairs also has funds available in Utah.

00:49:01 --> 00:49:05: The legislature has provided pretty generous funding through Division of

00:49:05 --> 00:49:09: water resources and Conservancy districts for things like smart controllers

00:49:10 --> 00:49:12: and the growing water smart program.

00:49:12 --> 00:49:15: And then in 2022, they were able to dedicate 200

00:49:15 --> 00:49:19: million in federal ARPA funding to secondary metering, which, you

00:49:19 --> 00:49:23: know, they really, they just would never have been able

00:49:23 --> 00:49:27: to do that without the federal funding, which unfortunately no

00:49:27 --> 00:49:30: one time dollars, but they were able just this year,

00:49:31 --> 00:49:35: just recently, the governor announced another $200 million, which was

00:49:35 --> 00:49:40: contributed from private and nonprofit donors to help implement conservation

00:49:40 --> 00:49:43: projects that are going to protect water levels in the

00:49:44 --> 00:49:45: Great Salt Lake.

00:49:45 --> 00:49:47: So that was a pretty exciting initiative.

00:49:48 --> 00:49:50: And it's, they really seem to be getting pretty creative

00:49:50 --> 00:49:52: about filling some of those funding gaps.

00:49:53 --> 00:49:58: Arizona, their water infrastructure finance authority, provides funding for a

00:49:58 --> 00:50:03: number of different conservation measures like turf replacement and metering.

00:50:05 --> 00:50:08: Nevada, I'm not aware of of state level funds, but

00:50:08 --> 00:50:13: Southern Nevada Water Authority, which is the major regional provider

00:50:13 --> 00:50:17: for Southern Nevada, they have very generous rebates for turf

00:50:17 --> 00:50:22: replacement and evaporative cooling upgrades and a number of other

00:50:22 --> 00:50:23: programs.

00:50:23 --> 00:50:26: And something to watch is that in the past, Southern

00:50:26 --> 00:50:31: Nevada has been able to successfully match their contributions with

00:50:31 --> 00:50:34: the Bureau of Reclamation's Water Smart Grant.

00:50:34 --> 00:50:38: So I haven't seen reductions in those programs, but hopefully

00:50:38 --> 00:50:41: they'll be able to keep those in place.

00:50:41 --> 00:50:46: And then in California, Division of Water Resources has also

00:50:46 --> 00:50:51: provided pretty significant funding for water use efficiency

and particularly
00:50:51 --> 00:50:55: to help meet the state's new turf limit requirements.
00:50:58 --> 00:51:01: And just a real brief plug.
00:51:01 --> 00:51:03: I wanted to share a new report that WA just
00:51:03 --> 00:51:04: released.
00:51:04 --> 00:51:08: And this assesses the water and energy implications of data
00:51:08 --> 00:51:12: centers in our region and it proposes some policy solutions.
00:51:13 --> 00:51:16: And so as we've all probably seen in the news,
00:51:17 --> 00:51:20: this is a pretty hot topic around the basin.
00:51:20 --> 00:51:23: It's especially gotten a lot of attention in Arizona and
00:51:23 --> 00:51:27: we're starting to see both States and local governments try
00:51:27 --> 00:51:30: to navigate how to regulate water use associated with with
00:51:30 --> 00:51:31: this industry.
00:51:32 --> 00:51:34: I think this is a topic we're going to bring
00:51:34 --> 00:51:36: back next year to this coalition.
00:51:36 --> 00:51:39: But I wanted to share the report in cases of
00:51:39 --> 00:51:43: interest and I will go ahead and pause there and
00:51:43 --> 00:51:45: see if there are questions.
00:51:46 --> 00:51:48: Thank you so much, Lindsay.
00:51:48 --> 00:51:50: We do have a couple questions in the chat box.
00:51:51 --> 00:51:52: Let me scroll.
00:51:52 --> 00:51:54: To stop sharing.
00:51:57 --> 00:51:59: Lauren McNeil, do you want to unmute and just go
00:51:59 --> 00:52:00: ahead and ask your question?
00:52:03 --> 00:52:06: Well, I think I got it answered in the link
00:52:06 --> 00:52:10: that Austin provided, but it was just looking at, I
00:52:10 --> 00:52:13: work on ton of new construction buildings in Denver and
00:52:13 --> 00:52:17: they rarely chase that Denver green code provision.
00:52:17 --> 00:52:20: So it's really good insight to know that there's, you
00:52:20 --> 00:52:22: know, a strategy to help incentivize that.
00:52:24 --> 00:52:25: So thanks for sharing, Austin.
00:52:26 --> 00:52:28: Austin, do you want to, do you want to say
00:52:28 --> 00:52:31: anything else about the cat fee credit?
00:52:32 --> 00:52:35: No, just just thanks for looking into that and we
00:52:35 --> 00:52:39: encourage all developers that are developing new projects in Denver
00:52:39 --> 00:52:41: to reach out and engage on that.
00:52:41 --> 00:52:45: A lot of benefits for both developer side and then
00:52:45 --> 00:52:49: long term Bill pair, whoever owns or operates that building.
00:52:49 --> 00:52:52: So win, win, win situation and thanks for the the
00:52:53 --> 00:52:54: plug Lindsay.
00:52:54 --> 00:52:54: Great.

00:52:57 --> 00:52:58: Thanks for joining, Austin.
00:52:59 --> 00:53:02: And then, Blake, do you want to unmute and ask
00:53:02 --> 00:53:02: your question?
00:53:07 --> 00:53:08: There it is.
00:53:08 --> 00:53:09: I found the found the button.
00:53:09 --> 00:53:10: All right.
00:53:10 --> 00:53:17: So I'm with Opportunity Regional Water District in Texas and
00:53:17 --> 00:53:23: we are 10 to 20 years behind in water conservation
00:53:23 --> 00:53:26: initiatives like this.
00:53:28 --> 00:53:30: But as far as non non functional turf, I just
00:53:31 --> 00:53:34: wanted to hear maybe what how others experience in dealing
00:53:34 --> 00:53:38: with pushback because I know in our area there'll be
00:53:38 --> 00:53:41: a lot of folks that say well, the turf does
00:53:41 --> 00:53:44: have a function like erosion control and and things like
00:53:44 --> 00:53:45: that.
00:53:45 --> 00:53:49: So just how how you all dealt with that?
00:53:51 --> 00:53:53: Yeah, I will jump in, but I'd be curious if
00:53:53 --> 00:53:58: others have have thoughts to contribute specifically in Colorado, which
00:53:58 --> 00:54:01: is the legislation we were most involved in.
00:54:01 --> 00:54:06: We definitely heard that argument from some who struggle with
00:54:06 --> 00:54:11: the term functional and had, you know, similar thoughts around,
00:54:11 --> 00:54:16: well, can't you call like infiltrating, you know, stormwater that
00:54:16 --> 00:54:21: using turf to infiltrate stormwater functional or using it for
00:54:21 --> 00:54:25: erosion control or you know, this is it, it really
00:54:25 --> 00:54:27: is serving some function.
00:54:27 --> 00:54:30: But the distinction that we made is that there are
00:54:30 --> 00:54:34: a lot of other plant species and grasses species that
00:54:34 --> 00:54:37: are able to serve that same function that use, you
00:54:37 --> 00:54:40: know, half or a third of the water.
00:54:40 --> 00:54:44: So there's some nuance here because Nevada and California are
00:54:44 --> 00:54:47: actually trying to move away from almost like all turfgrass
00:54:48 --> 00:54:52: species, whereas Colorado and Utah, they, they're a different climate,
00:54:52 --> 00:54:53: right?
00:54:53 --> 00:54:58: Colorado and Utah are more comfortable with some turf varieties
00:54:58 --> 00:55:02: that are hybridized and use less water.
00:55:02 --> 00:55:05: But it was it's pretty easy and that it's a
00:55:05 --> 00:55:09: pretty easy argument, at least in Colorado and Utah to

00:55:09 --> 00:55:13: say there are other, you know, species types that can
00:55:13 --> 00:55:17: serve that same function and just use, you know, a
00:55:17 --> 00:55:20: small percentage of the the water.
00:55:25 --> 00:55:27: Does anyone else have thoughts on that?
00:55:29 --> 00:55:32: I see some some in stuff in the chat.
00:55:32 --> 00:55:34: Yeah, go ahead, Sarah.
00:55:35 --> 00:55:36: Yeah.
00:55:36 --> 00:55:36: Thank you.
00:55:37 --> 00:55:39: I just kind of wanted to add on to Blake's
00:55:39 --> 00:55:44: question because we have similar pushback in Oklahoma for that.
00:55:44 --> 00:55:49: And we actually have for some development standards like erosion
00:55:49 --> 00:55:54: control, like post post construction erosion control, people can actually
00:55:54 --> 00:55:58: use, they can use native grasses, they can use mix
00:55:58 --> 00:56:02: of wildflowers, they can use all of these different options.
00:56:03 --> 00:56:06: And you know, when these technical or webinars that the
00:56:06 --> 00:56:10: water quality division has, you know, they're trying to find
00:56:10 --> 00:56:13: out why developers won't use that.
00:56:13 --> 00:56:16: And it seems to be kind of a mix between
00:56:16 --> 00:56:20: we're not used to it, we're not comfortable with that,
00:56:20 --> 00:56:23: the alternatives aren't available.
00:56:23 --> 00:56:27: And then kind of the general tone we hear is,
00:56:27 --> 00:56:31: well, this isn't the way I've always done it.
00:56:32 --> 00:56:33: I'm comfortable with the way I've always done it.
00:56:34 --> 00:56:37: And it's it's hard to persuade people otherwise.
00:56:37 --> 00:56:39: So yeah, just adding to that.
00:56:39 --> 00:56:43: And if anybody has anecdotes that are useful along those
00:56:43 --> 00:56:43: lines?
00:56:44 --> 00:56:49: Happy to hear those heard some of those same challenges
00:56:49 --> 00:56:52: in the basin and the work I've done in this
00:56:53 --> 00:56:53: space.
00:56:53 --> 00:56:56: And and that's why I really think that when you
00:56:56 --> 00:57:00: put these sort of like non functional turf limits in
00:57:00 --> 00:57:03: place, they really need to go pretty hand in hand
00:57:03 --> 00:57:05: with green industry transition.
00:57:05 --> 00:57:08: So making sure that the folks that are installing and
00:57:08 --> 00:57:12: maintaining these landscapes understand what the difference between native grass
00:57:12 --> 00:57:13: and Kentucky bluegrass is.
00:57:13 --> 00:57:17: They have the tools, they have the equipment, they need
00:57:17 --> 00:57:18: to install these correctly.

00:57:19 --> 00:57:23: Another big piece of this is it is like getting
00:57:23 --> 00:57:28: the getting the inventory in place, like there's enough of
00:57:28 --> 00:57:32: the right plants and grasses to meet increased demand.
00:57:33 --> 00:57:36: So all of these, it's kind of like chicken or
00:57:36 --> 00:57:36: the egg.
00:57:36 --> 00:57:39: All these pieces need to kind of go hand in
00:57:39 --> 00:57:42: hand, which I think we're, you know, we've, we've seen
00:57:42 --> 00:57:43: a lot of success.
00:57:43 --> 00:57:46: I've, I grew up in San Francisco Bay Area and
00:57:46 --> 00:57:51: experienced lots of pretty intense droughts and throughout my childhood
00:57:51 --> 00:57:55: and I went from, you know, living in a community
00:57:55 --> 00:57:58: that I grew up in that was all grass lawns
00:57:58 --> 00:58:00: to now it's pretty rare.
00:58:00 --> 00:58:03: It's a slow transition, but it can happen.
00:58:03 --> 00:58:05: It just, you know, you need to have the right
00:58:05 --> 00:58:06: pieces in place.
00:58:09 --> 00:58:10: Cool.
00:58:10 --> 00:58:11: Thank you very much.
00:58:14 --> 00:58:14: Yeah.
00:58:14 --> 00:58:17: And I think it's it's just going to be so
00:58:17 --> 00:58:20: difficult for us because it's still so ingrained in our
00:58:20 --> 00:58:22: cultural mindset of what you want your home to look
00:58:22 --> 00:58:23: like.
00:58:25 --> 00:58:27: It's going to take a while to break out of
00:58:27 --> 00:58:27: that.
00:58:27 --> 00:58:27: I'll.
00:58:28 --> 00:58:33: Just mention in the Utilize Water wise report, there's some
00:58:33 --> 00:58:37: great websites that we list that show not only like
00:58:37 --> 00:58:41: plant lists, but also gorgeous images of what your property
00:58:41 --> 00:58:45: could look like with native species or you know, drought
00:58:45 --> 00:58:47: resilient species.
00:58:47 --> 00:58:51: And I would say they're far more gorgeous than just
00:58:51 --> 00:58:52: a regular lawn.
00:58:52 --> 00:58:55: So I think part of it is also inspiration and
00:58:56 --> 00:59:00: there's some really great programs like we have Resource Central
00:59:00 --> 00:59:03: here in Boulder, Co has you can basically buy a
00:59:04 --> 00:59:07: garden in a box, which is all basically native and
00:59:07 --> 00:59:09: drought resilient species.
00:59:09 --> 00:59:11: And it really inspires people.
00:59:11 --> 00:59:14: They have these templates of what the landscape will look

00:59:14 --> 00:59:16: like and then they give you all these starter plants.

00:59:17 --> 00:59:20: It's pretty affordable and very, very popular program.

00:59:20 --> 00:59:24: They sell out every single season, so it's pretty cool.

00:59:29 --> 00:59:34: Any other comments or questions, Austin, maybe you could just

00:59:34 --> 00:59:39: talk about your experience with talking, you know, dealing with

00:59:39 --> 00:59:39: pushback.

00:59:43 --> 00:59:48: Yeah, that's a really great question.

00:59:48 --> 00:59:52: So I think one of the really important distinctions of

00:59:52 --> 00:59:56: Denver water is a separate water utility from city and

00:59:56 --> 00:59:57: County of Denver.

00:59:58 --> 01:00:01: We actually serve water to 18 different communities around metro

01:00:01 --> 01:00:02: Denver.

01:00:02 --> 01:00:04: So our role in kind of the policy side is

01:00:04 --> 01:00:07: always trying to work a little bit more from the

01:00:07 --> 01:00:11: carrot approach instead of the stick approach, but also making

01:00:12 --> 01:00:15: sure of all the the regulations are at least somewhat

01:00:15 --> 01:00:20: consistent since there are so many developers, landscape professionals.

01:00:20 --> 01:00:23: And building trades just in general that work across the

01:00:23 --> 01:00:26: entire metro area, it's always good for standardization.

01:00:27 --> 01:00:31: Specifically with the Denver Green code, 1 of the things

01:00:31 --> 01:00:34: that really stood out is there wasn't a ton of

01:00:34 --> 01:00:38: push back on the process because that's a voluntary building

01:00:38 --> 01:00:41: code that is above and beyond the the existing building

01:00:41 --> 01:00:42: code.

01:00:43 --> 01:00:46: The push back I think would come if we made

01:00:46 --> 01:00:50: some of those requirements mandatory and the the whole idea

01:00:50 --> 01:00:54: behind the Denver Green Code when they developed it was

01:00:54 --> 01:00:57: like this is going to be kind of cutting edge,

01:00:58 --> 01:01:02: almost bleeding edge of what is available in the marketplace.

01:01:02 --> 01:01:06: And as these things become more common and more highly

01:01:06 --> 01:01:11: used by installers and developers and industry, we will kind

01:01:11 --> 01:01:16: of move the standards towards whatever is currently cutting edge.

01:01:16 --> 01:01:19: And on the water use side, we have seen the

01:01:19 --> 01:01:24: .8 gallon per flesh toilets often work better than our

01:01:24 --> 01:01:26: 1.82 gallon per flesh toilet.

01:01:26 --> 01:01:30: So it's kind of a gain of efficiency without any

01:01:30 --> 01:01:31: sort of sacrifice.

01:01:32 --> 01:01:35: And then we as the water utility are able to
01:01:35 --> 01:01:39: support that by offering those incentives of saying like we
01:01:39 --> 01:01:43: know developments that exceed building standards are going to save
01:01:43 --> 01:01:46: water and we can actually account for that and reduce
01:01:46 --> 01:01:49: our tap fees accordingly for that.
01:01:49 --> 01:01:51: So it has been kind of a slow push.
01:01:52 --> 01:01:55: And one of the things that has actually helped us
01:01:55 --> 01:01:59: make this this program permanent is the adjustments for our
01:01:59 --> 01:02:03: system development charges to reflect how much more expensive water
01:02:03 --> 01:02:05: has become along the Colorado Front Range.
01:02:05 --> 01:02:08: Now our water rights are valued at a much higher
01:02:08 --> 01:02:12: rate and that increases our system development charges.
01:02:12 --> 01:02:15: And having our efficiency program is actually a great way
01:02:15 --> 01:02:17: to kind of offset some of those.
01:02:17 --> 01:02:20: So developers can still capitalize on that.
01:02:21 --> 01:02:23: And then the long term building owners and operators can
01:02:23 --> 01:02:24: also benefit from that.
01:02:27 --> 01:02:29: So that's kind of a quick nutshell of it.
01:02:29 --> 01:02:33: But if anyone has any specific questions kind of around
01:02:33 --> 01:02:36: our program and our our thinking with how we interact
01:02:36 --> 01:02:39: with development codes, I'd be happy to kind of dive
01:02:39 --> 01:02:41: into anyone's questions.
01:02:43 --> 01:02:44: Thank you, Austin.
01:02:45 --> 01:02:50: Mike also mentioned the Colorado River compact negotiations that are
01:02:50 --> 01:02:51: currently happening.
01:02:52 --> 01:02:55: We're going to be focusing on that at our next
01:02:55 --> 01:02:56: meeting on November 19th.
01:02:56 --> 01:02:59: So you all should have that calendar invite.
01:02:59 --> 01:03:02: But I'm just reminding you guys that that's also coming
01:03:02 --> 01:03:05: up and also will have a big impact on policies
01:03:05 --> 01:03:07: in this Colorado River basin.
01:03:09 --> 01:03:12: Harold, I don't know, you had a comment about pools.
01:03:12 --> 01:03:14: Do you want to talk a little bit about that?
01:03:19 --> 01:03:20: Yeah, I apologize.
01:03:20 --> 01:03:21: I got here a little bit late.
01:03:21 --> 01:03:23: I had some things that I had to handle this
01:03:23 --> 01:03:24: morning.
01:03:24 --> 01:03:26: And of course it's California still.
01:03:26 --> 01:03:28: We're just barely at the 1:00 now.
01:03:30 --> 01:03:35: Swimming pools, for some reason, you know, we've been

allocated
01:03:35 --> 01:03:38: as the space that we use and all the hardscape
01:03:38 --> 01:03:42: that goes in when a project replaces lawn that we're
01:03:42 --> 01:03:44: actually saving water.
01:03:46 --> 01:03:50: You know that that's what the perspective is, has turned
01:03:50 --> 01:03:54: out to be based on what our state has accepted
01:03:54 --> 01:03:55: at this point.
01:03:57 --> 01:04:00: I know that from some of the processes in the
01:04:00 --> 01:04:03: past where the Alliance for Water Efficiency and some of
01:04:04 --> 01:04:07: the other folks in the water industry, they, they were
01:04:07 --> 01:04:11: here in California, they were because of, of a drought.
01:04:11 --> 01:04:14: So we incurred, and I've, I've done this for 50
01:04:15 --> 01:04:15: years.
01:04:15 --> 01:04:16: I've been in the swimming pool industry.
01:04:16 --> 01:04:20: My, my dad started the company back in the 60s
01:04:20 --> 01:04:24: and, and watched we've been through 4 droughts, I think.
01:04:24 --> 01:04:26: And we got to a point where they were going
01:04:26 --> 01:04:29: to stop allowing us to even build pools because of
01:04:29 --> 01:04:31: the, the droughts and not having water available.
01:04:32 --> 01:04:36: But we're trying to do everything we can on, on
01:04:36 --> 01:04:37: my end of it.
01:04:38 --> 01:04:42: I actually created a product that I went through NSF
01:04:42 --> 01:04:46: and got a certified and, and the, it's actually being
01:04:46 --> 01:04:50: discussed right now at the PHTA 13, which is the
01:04:50 --> 01:04:55: water savings code for swimming pools, which we're actually capturing
01:04:55 --> 01:05:00: all of the cleaning water from the filtration systems and
01:05:00 --> 01:05:03: recycling it and being able to send it back to
01:05:03 --> 01:05:07: the pool that has the pool chemicals in it instead
01:05:07 --> 01:05:11: of dropping it into, you know, the either a treatment
01:05:11 --> 01:05:15: plant or into gutters or lakes and streams.
01:05:16 --> 01:05:19: I think it's important to know that, you know, with,
01:05:19 --> 01:05:23: with swimming pool water is that, that most of the
01:05:23 --> 01:05:27: manufacturers that we deal with, the major manufacturers, they have
01:05:27 --> 01:05:32: really pushed hard on salt generation systems, cause salt generators.
01:05:32 --> 01:05:35: They, they create chlorine when you send an electrical charge
01:05:35 --> 01:05:37: to a separates the soda from a chloride and you
01:05:38 --> 01:05:38: get pure chlorine.
01:05:39 --> 01:05:42: So these pools in these backyards, you know, millions of
01:05:42 --> 01:05:44: them have salt water in them.

01:05:44 --> 01:05:48: So when they're back flushing, it's going into a treatment
01:05:48 --> 01:05:50: plant that's not designed to remove salt.
01:05:52 --> 01:05:55: And here where I live, I live in agricultural zone
01:05:55 --> 01:05:58: in the San Joaquin Valley, salt intrusion is a concern.
01:05:59 --> 01:06:01: And I know have friends in Florida, they have salt
01:06:01 --> 01:06:01: intrusion issues.
01:06:01 --> 01:06:04: So we're trying to do everything we can.
01:06:05 --> 01:06:08: And I'm, I'm, I'm trying to make sure people are
01:06:08 --> 01:06:10: aware that we have created a product.
01:06:11 --> 01:06:13: You know, it took me about five years going through
01:06:13 --> 01:06:15: all the process and getting, getting it certified.
01:06:15 --> 01:06:19: So it actually can be applied to any commercial application
01:06:19 --> 01:06:21: or residential product and any location.
01:06:21 --> 01:06:25: Safety wise, it's like a little miniature water treatment plant
01:06:25 --> 01:06:27: that applies to a swimming pool.
01:06:29 --> 01:06:29: That's great.
01:06:30 --> 01:06:33: And so for anyone who missed it, our previous set
01:06:33 --> 01:06:36: coalition meeting was on water reuse.
01:06:36 --> 01:06:39: I know we didn't really touch on it today, but
01:06:39 --> 01:06:40: reuse such a big issue.
01:06:40 --> 01:06:42: We have the recording available on our web page.
01:06:42 --> 01:06:45: I'll send the link out after this meeting.
01:06:45 --> 01:06:49: But yeah, that's a really good point, Harold, with salt
01:06:49 --> 01:06:52: water intrusion and it's such a big issue.
01:06:52 --> 01:06:54: I don't know if any of our speakers today want
01:06:54 --> 01:06:55: to talk about that a little bit.
01:06:58 --> 01:06:59: Don't know much about the issue.
01:06:59 --> 01:07:02: I mean I will just, I'll just add on the
01:07:02 --> 01:07:06: subject of swimming pools that in the code space we're
01:07:06 --> 01:07:09: starting to see it considered a little bit more.
01:07:09 --> 01:07:13: Harold, it sounds like I'm not familiar, but it sounds
01:07:13 --> 01:07:17: like California's tackled maybe some regulations around pools and at
01:07:18 --> 01:07:19: the local level.
01:07:19 --> 01:07:21: I've seen, I think I, I think I would say
01:07:21 --> 01:07:25: an increase in codes that are putting some restrictions in
01:07:25 --> 01:07:28: place around pool size, mandatory pool covers.
01:07:28 --> 01:07:29: That kind.
01:07:29 --> 01:07:29: Of thing.
01:07:30 --> 01:07:33: Yeah, Vegas is actually only allow you to build up
01:07:33 --> 01:07:36: to a 600 square foot pool and you know, it's
01:07:36 --> 01:07:39: it's one of those things where there's got I'm sure

01:07:39 --> 01:07:42: they're probably getting their way around I'll build two or
01:07:42 --> 01:07:45: three pools next to each other and then come back
01:07:45 --> 01:07:47: and remodel and knock the walls out.
01:07:47 --> 01:07:51: You know, the, the casinos can do things that nobody
01:07:51 --> 01:07:54: else can do when it comes to financial stuff.
01:07:54 --> 01:07:59: But but you know, it's swimming pools are something that
01:07:59 --> 01:08:01: people don't realize.
01:08:01 --> 01:08:02: How many swimming pools?
01:08:02 --> 01:08:05: I mean, in the state of California during one year
01:08:05 --> 01:08:09: during COVID, there were 17,000 swimming pools built just in
01:08:09 --> 01:08:10: the state of California.
01:08:10 --> 01:08:11: Wow.
01:08:11 --> 01:08:14: We had permitted and built and there, there are millions
01:08:15 --> 01:08:16: and millions of swimming pools.
01:08:16 --> 01:08:20: And, and that's what concerned me about the, the, the
01:08:20 --> 01:08:24: cleaning cycles that are required to keep a pool sanitary
01:08:24 --> 01:08:26: and safe for human use.
01:08:26 --> 01:08:30: And, and the, you know, when they, they specifically said
01:08:30 --> 01:08:34: that the largest waste of water was the back washing
01:08:34 --> 01:08:36: or cleaning of the filters.
01:08:37 --> 01:08:39: That's what really pushed me to try to come up
01:08:39 --> 01:08:42: with a concept and, and we're able to do it.
01:08:42 --> 01:08:45: And I know they, they, they said they wanted to
01:08:46 --> 01:08:47: put covers on pools.
01:08:47 --> 01:08:49: But if you're out in Phoenix or even here in
01:08:49 --> 01:08:52: the San Joaquin Valley, you know, it's 100??, you're not
01:08:52 --> 01:08:54: going to have a cover on a pool, you know,
01:08:54 --> 01:08:56: and that's when you get the evaporation.
01:08:56 --> 01:08:59: So they're, so they, they sort of dropped that ball.
01:08:59 --> 01:09:03: They said that's really not going to work with after
01:09:03 --> 01:09:06: I get this product applied to the, the standard 13
01:09:06 --> 01:09:10: code, then my next steps are going to try to
01:09:10 --> 01:09:12: discuss it with the EPA.
01:09:12 --> 01:09:14: Because again, you know, with the amount of, if we
01:09:14 --> 01:09:17: go to one of our, our wholesale houses, the, the
01:09:17 --> 01:09:21: amount of chemicals is just stunning in these buildings that
01:09:21 --> 01:09:23: are just every day there's a guy driving there to
01:09:23 --> 01:09:27: pick up loading this truck with all these chemicals and
01:09:27 --> 01:09:29: they go out and they just dump, dump, dump.
01:09:29 --> 01:09:32: Then that water gets dumped into our, our, our system.
01:09:32 --> 01:09:35: So, you know, it's, it's just one of those things

01:09:35 --> 01:09:37: that I, I look at, I say, well, if, if
01:09:37 --> 01:09:40: it, if they can, if they're putting it in that
01:09:40 --> 01:09:43: pool, there's no reason why it shouldn't stay there.
01:09:43 --> 01:09:45: If it can, you know, and and that's that's what
01:09:45 --> 01:09:47: I've been able to accomplish.
01:09:48 --> 01:09:48: Thanks, Harold.
01:09:49 --> 01:09:51: So we got to move on, but I really appreciate
01:09:51 --> 01:09:54: you bringing this up and putting it on our radar.
01:09:55 --> 01:09:58: I think most of the policies we've been focusing on,
01:09:58 --> 01:10:02: at least in this session are related to landscaping because
01:10:02 --> 01:10:06: at least in the Western United States, 50% or more
01:10:06 --> 01:10:08: of water use is on landscaping.
01:10:09 --> 01:10:12: And I think less focus has been on pools recently
01:10:12 --> 01:10:15: just because it's considered like a reuse opportunity.
01:10:15 --> 01:10:15: Else.
01:10:16 --> 01:10:19: Which is slightly different, but I mean, we're going to
01:10:19 --> 01:10:19: move on.
01:10:19 --> 01:10:21: But really, thank you, Harold.
01:10:22 --> 01:10:25: We are, we are AC 53 swimming pool contractor, we're
01:10:25 --> 01:10:27: also AC27 landscape contractor.
01:10:27 --> 01:10:30: So when we're in that backyard, we are putting turf
01:10:30 --> 01:10:33: down to most of the time it's artificial turf, which
01:10:33 --> 01:10:36: there's always that concern of the contaminants that come out
01:10:36 --> 01:10:38: of the manufacturer of that.
01:10:38 --> 01:10:42: But again, we we cover, we're usually remodeling a whole
01:10:42 --> 01:10:43: backyard when we go in.
01:10:45 --> 01:10:45: Thank you.
01:10:47 --> 01:10:47: Yeah.
01:10:47 --> 01:10:49: So we have some other comments in the chat.
01:10:49 --> 01:10:51: I'd love for you guys to continue using the chat
01:10:52 --> 01:10:52: box.
01:10:52 --> 01:10:55: We're going to just wrap up with some opportunities and
01:10:55 --> 01:10:56: discussion about upcoming topics now.
01:10:57 --> 01:10:59: But if you have other questions or comments, again, the
01:10:59 --> 01:11:01: chat box is a great place to continue.
01:11:03 --> 01:11:04: All right.
01:11:06 --> 01:11:11: So some upcoming resources that we're going to be working
01:11:11 --> 01:11:16: on through ULI, we're going to be convening local roundtables.
01:11:17 --> 01:11:20: These could be lots of different types of formats.
01:11:20 --> 01:11:24: We're planning on working with local municipalities in Colorado to

01:11:24 --> 01:11:28: bring together public and private sector land use and water
01:11:28 --> 01:11:32: professionals aimed at supporting water wise real estate and supportive
01:11:32 --> 01:11:33: policies.
01:11:33 --> 01:11:35: Please reach out if this interests you.
01:11:36 --> 01:11:40: You know, our goal is to work with municipalities in
01:11:40 --> 01:11:43: Colorado before 20-30 basically.
01:11:43 --> 01:11:44: So we have a long runway and I would love
01:11:44 --> 01:11:46: to work with you if you're interested.
01:11:47 --> 01:11:51: We're also going to be documenting the business case for
01:11:51 --> 01:11:55: Water Wise land uses and their strategies for water efficiency
01:11:55 --> 01:11:56: and conservation.
01:11:57 --> 01:12:00: So if you have case studies and are willing to
01:12:00 --> 01:12:03: share your financial ROI for Water Wise strategies in real
01:12:04 --> 01:12:07: estate, please reach out to me and love to hear
01:12:07 --> 01:12:10: from you and your case studies may be featured.
01:12:11 --> 01:12:14: And we're also just starting a new article series in
01:12:14 --> 01:12:17: Urban Land magazine, which has a very large reach about
01:12:17 --> 01:12:21: the Water Wise Development Coalition meeting topics.
01:12:21 --> 01:12:23: And we're going to be starting with this meeting.
01:12:23 --> 01:12:26: And for future meetings, there's opportunity for authorship.
01:12:26 --> 01:12:28: If you'd like a byline in Urban Lynn magazine, that's
01:12:29 --> 01:12:30: could be a great opportunity for you.
01:12:31 --> 01:12:33: So if any of these things speak to you, please
01:12:34 --> 01:12:35: reach out to me.
01:12:35 --> 01:12:37: I mean, my e-mail address is right here on the
01:12:37 --> 01:12:40: slide and also you can see it on in the
01:12:40 --> 01:12:40: Zoom controls.
01:12:40 --> 01:12:44: I'm going to turn it over to Alliance for Water
01:12:44 --> 01:12:48: Efficiency staff to talk about their upcoming opportunities.
01:12:50 --> 01:12:51: Perfect.
01:12:51 --> 01:12:55: Our my colleague Amanda was going to be with us
01:12:55 --> 01:12:56: today but is unable.
01:12:56 --> 01:12:59: So I will do my best to articulate what our
01:12:59 --> 01:13:02: friends in the program team are working on.
01:13:02 --> 01:13:06: One of these projects is with the Water Research Foundation
01:13:06 --> 01:13:11: and it is looking at utility business models for managing
01:13:11 --> 01:13:12: water demand reduction.
01:13:13 --> 01:13:18: Would love to connect specifically with water utilities in this
01:13:18 --> 01:13:18: space.
01:13:18 --> 01:13:22: We're doing this work in partnership with the Pacific Institute,
01:13:23 --> 01:13:27: but really curious about how utilities can maintain revenue

amidst
01:13:27 --> 01:13:29: demand reductions and fluctuations.
01:13:30 --> 01:13:34: We are scheduling interviews to talk through what this looks
01:13:34 --> 01:13:38: like in your particular context, so my colleague Amanda's e-mail
01:13:39 --> 01:13:42: address is there if you have more specific questions and
01:13:42 --> 01:13:45: or are interested in participating.
01:13:45 --> 01:13:48: I believe we have a couple of other ones to
01:13:48 --> 01:13:49: cover as well.
01:13:50 --> 01:13:55: We are also exploring water use in low income households.
01:13:57 --> 01:14:01: Equity and affordability continue to be driving forces in our
01:14:01 --> 01:14:04: work at AWE and we know that as water prices
01:14:04 --> 01:14:09: are skyrocketing, this has disproportionate impacts on low to moderate
01:14:09 --> 01:14:10: income households.
01:14:11 --> 01:14:15: So this project is exploring and characterizing the extent to
01:14:15 --> 01:14:19: which leaks from inefficient appliances and fixtures contribute to immediate
01:14:19 --> 01:14:22: and long term water affordability challenges.
01:14:22 --> 01:14:26: This project has been funded by our partners at MET,
01:14:26 --> 01:14:31: the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and really looking
01:14:31 --> 01:14:34: at the symptoms of water fordability.
01:14:34 --> 01:14:38: So we know that often there are utility programs that
01:14:38 --> 01:14:42: can help pay for bills, but how do you get
01:14:42 --> 01:14:47: at these long term issues regarding leaks and inefficient products.
01:14:47 --> 01:14:53: So that is another project that we are actively working
01:14:53 --> 01:14:54: on next slide.
01:14:58 --> 01:15:01: And then yet another project that we are getting ready
01:15:01 --> 01:15:04: to launch is our per capita water use calculation, again
01:15:04 --> 01:15:07: funded by our friends at the Water Research Foundation.
01:15:07 --> 01:15:11: And then we're doing this work alongside the Brundle Group
01:15:11 --> 01:15:12: and Pacific Institute.
01:15:13 --> 01:15:17: We are our target audience is water providers, planners and
01:15:17 --> 01:15:21: regulators that are all relying on per capita, per capita
01:15:21 --> 01:15:23: water use information.
01:15:23 --> 01:15:26: But how we land on that number varies widely.
01:15:26 --> 01:15:29: And so we're wanting to build better metrics to have
01:15:30 --> 01:15:33: more consistent decision making and better planning.
01:15:33 --> 01:15:37: So this research project really digs into how are we
01:15:37 --> 01:15:42: coming up with consistent terminology and a standardization of calculation

01:15:43 --> 01:15:46: for per capita water use across North America.

01:15:47 --> 01:15:50: So this is a project that we are very excited

01:15:50 --> 01:15:53: about and I imagine we'll have invitations for folks to

01:15:53 --> 01:15:55: participate here in the coming year.

01:15:59 --> 01:16:03: And then one other project we're typically working between 8:00

01:16:03 --> 01:16:07: to 12:00 a year is our AMI engagement benchmarking survey.

01:16:07 --> 01:16:11: So this QR code is active, feel free to grab

01:16:11 --> 01:16:13: your phone and scan it.

01:16:13 --> 01:16:18: Otherwise, this deck will be sent out afterwards and we

01:16:18 --> 01:16:22: are curious how folks are engaging with AMI.

01:16:22 --> 01:16:26: From organizations that have long standing AMI programs to utilities

01:16:26 --> 01:16:29: that are just flirting with the idea of adopting AMI

01:16:29 --> 01:16:33: systems in their communities and how you are leveraging AMI

01:16:33 --> 01:16:37: both in your customer engagement and in your water conservation

01:16:37 --> 01:16:39: and efficiency strategies.

01:16:39 --> 01:16:41: It is a bit of an undertaking.

01:16:41 --> 01:16:44: The survey takes an hour to complete, but the more

01:16:44 --> 01:16:48: utilities that participate, the better and the richer the data

01:16:48 --> 01:16:51: will be, which will eventually be shared out in the

01:16:51 --> 01:16:52: next year or so.

01:16:53 --> 01:16:55: And the due date for that is Halloween.

01:16:55 --> 01:16:57: So it is quickly approaching.

01:16:59 --> 01:17:03: And then I believe we have one last slide and

01:17:03 --> 01:17:07: that is a plug for our 2026 symposium.

01:17:07 --> 01:17:11: This will be our 4th annual event in Chicago.

01:17:11 --> 01:17:14: If you have not come before, it is a really

01:17:14 --> 01:17:16: fun time where we have 3 days of hands on

01:17:16 --> 01:17:20: sessions where we're getting to talk about full range of

01:17:20 --> 01:17:21: issues.

01:17:21 --> 01:17:25: Whether it's how are you selling and beautifying water wise

01:17:25 --> 01:17:29: landscaping to state and federal policy, to advancements in technology,

01:17:29 --> 01:17:34: customer engagement, engaging with equity centered research and programming a

01:17:34 --> 01:17:35: really wide swath.

01:17:36 --> 01:17:38: And then Chicago in August is gorgeous.

01:17:38 --> 01:17:40: So we give you lots of opportunities to get get

01:17:40 --> 01:17:42: out on the town and have meals with other folks.

01:17:43 --> 01:17:46: And we are going to be back at the venue

01:17:46 --> 01:17:48: we were at this year.
01:17:48 --> 01:17:52: And so this QR code here has details about things
01:17:52 --> 01:17:53: to come.
01:17:53 --> 01:17:57: And we are getting ready to launch a project advisory
01:17:57 --> 01:17:59: committee for the 2026 symposium.
01:18:00 --> 01:18:03: So if you're interested in learning more about that and
01:18:03 --> 01:18:06: shaping some of the agenda and feel for next year's
01:18:06 --> 01:18:08: event, would love to connect with you.
01:18:09 --> 01:18:11: And that's all from AWE.
01:18:12 --> 01:18:13: Thank you, Kelly.
01:18:13 --> 01:18:15: So just a few more discussion items.
01:18:15 --> 01:18:19: This is our upcoming agenda, which is a somewhat of
01:18:19 --> 01:18:23: a straw man agenda, except for November 19th is already
01:18:23 --> 01:18:23: set.
01:18:23 --> 01:18:26: We have our speakers set and the calendar invite has
01:18:26 --> 01:18:29: already been sent out that will be on the Colorado
01:18:29 --> 01:18:31: River guideline negotiations that are currently underway.
01:18:32 --> 01:18:36: It's a very hot topic, very politically charged.
01:18:36 --> 01:18:38: If you want to hear more from the people who
01:18:39 --> 01:18:41: have been working on those issues, please log into that
01:18:41 --> 01:18:42: meeting.
01:18:42 --> 01:18:43: We'd love to see you again.
01:18:44 --> 01:18:47: So I'd love to open it up to the discussion
01:18:47 --> 01:18:51: about for topics after that November meeting.
01:18:51 --> 01:18:55: I think our idea is for an early 2026 meeting
01:18:55 --> 01:18:59: on data center water use and industry best practices.
01:18:59 --> 01:19:01: I know there's a lot of information out there.
01:19:01 --> 01:19:06: Lindsay mentioned one resource that Western Resource advocates recently produced.
01:19:07 --> 01:19:10: We're thinking about also bringing in some data center people
01:19:10 --> 01:19:14: who could talk about some of the best practices in
01:19:14 --> 01:19:15: their industry.
01:19:15 --> 01:19:16: So that could be exciting.
01:19:17 --> 01:19:20: Some other ideas that we have written in are the
01:19:20 --> 01:19:23: interface between agricultural and development.
01:19:23 --> 01:19:25: This is also a very hot topic.
01:19:27 --> 01:19:30: The Snort Institute recently produced a report called Bridging the
01:19:30 --> 01:19:32: Gap talking about this issue.
01:19:33 --> 01:19:37: Some other ideas, the water demand calculator, which is also
01:19:37 --> 01:19:38: in high demand.
01:19:38 --> 01:19:43: Also thinking through the development review process and

how developments,

01:19:43 --> 01:19:49: how developers can work with governments throughout the development review

01:19:49 --> 01:19:53: process to especially related to water wise, land uses and

01:19:53 --> 01:19:58: then potentially something on MLS listings and promoting water efficiency.

01:19:58 --> 01:20:00: I haven't really seen that yet.

01:20:00 --> 01:20:02: So these are just a bunch of ideas.

01:20:02 --> 01:20:04: I'd love to hear from you guys.

01:20:04 --> 01:20:06: What interests you most.

01:20:06 --> 01:20:08: Should we move any of these topics around?

01:20:09 --> 01:20:10: Do you have speaker recommendations?

01:20:10 --> 01:20:12: Do you have other topic ideas?

01:20:13 --> 01:20:16: Please feel free to unmute and just let us know

01:20:16 --> 01:20:16: I.

01:20:24 --> 01:20:28: Was going to type it into the chat but since

01:20:28 --> 01:20:32: you said it's OK for the data center session, I

01:20:32 --> 01:20:36: would love to hear from someone who is either using

01:20:36 --> 01:20:39: or designing water reuse in any capacity.

01:20:39 --> 01:20:42: And that's for on site cooling towers.

01:20:42 --> 01:20:46: We're using grey water and landscaping piping.

01:20:46 --> 01:20:50: Purple pipe water, is that a term familiar to to

01:20:50 --> 01:20:53: everyone here at purple pipe water piping?

01:20:53 --> 01:20:57: You know, purple pipe water to a data center specifically

01:20:57 --> 01:21:00: if there's something like that happening, we hear on the

01:21:00 --> 01:21:04: ground that water reuse and water recycling is possible and

01:21:04 --> 01:21:06: we shouldn't have to worry about it.

01:21:07 --> 01:21:10: I would love to hear from someone who's actually done

01:21:11 --> 01:21:14: it or is designing it or if there's any best

01:21:14 --> 01:21:17: case or best practices or B and PS that would

01:21:17 --> 01:21:19: be that'd be great.

01:21:19 --> 01:21:20: OK, sounds good.

01:21:20 --> 01:21:24: And so we're thinking about inviting Apple to speak and

01:21:24 --> 01:21:27: they definitely have done water reuse for their data centers.

01:21:28 --> 01:21:29: Yeah.

01:21:29 --> 01:21:31: And there might be some other best practices that we'll

01:21:31 --> 01:21:32: lean into as well.

01:21:32 --> 01:21:35: And just for anyone, I know there's several comments about

01:21:35 --> 01:21:36: water reuse today.

01:21:36 --> 01:21:40: We our last session was on water reuse like exclusively.

01:21:40 --> 01:21:42: So I'm also going to share that link in my

01:21:42 --> 01:21:43: follow-ups as well.

01:21:43 --> 01:21:45: So you can watch that recording and see all the
01:21:45 --> 01:21:46: resources from that session.
01:21:46 --> 01:21:46: Awesome.
01:21:47 --> 01:21:48: Thank you.
01:21:48 --> 01:21:51: Marianne, I, I, I know some people who work in
01:21:51 --> 01:21:54: the data center industry, which is, you know, centered in
01:21:54 --> 01:21:55: Washington.
01:21:56 --> 01:21:58: And so I, I think it might be good to
01:21:58 --> 01:22:01: hear from the other side and, and maybe bridge some
01:22:01 --> 01:22:02: gaps there.
01:22:03 --> 01:22:03: Great.
01:22:03 --> 01:22:04: Thank you for letting me know, Chuck.
01:22:05 --> 01:22:09: And just chiming in, epic green tech we do on
01:22:09 --> 01:22:11: site water reuse design and permitting.
01:22:11 --> 01:22:14: So we're happy to, you know, contribute and in any
01:22:14 --> 01:22:15: way that would.
01:22:15 --> 01:22:16: Be helpful as well.
01:22:17 --> 01:22:18: Great.
01:22:18 --> 01:22:18: Thank you.
01:22:19 --> 01:22:22: And do you work directly with data centers, Megan?
01:22:23 --> 01:22:23: Great.
01:22:24 --> 01:22:27: And I saw your guys's recent Urban Land magazine article.
01:22:27 --> 01:22:28: Well done, loved it.
01:22:29 --> 01:22:29: Great.
01:22:31 --> 01:22:35: You know, one thing I just thought of that is,
01:22:35 --> 01:22:38: is come out, come up and some things that I'm
01:22:38 --> 01:22:43: doing that are, are not really directly environmental things, but
01:22:43 --> 01:22:48: the, the sort of enhancing and providing education for transitions
01:22:48 --> 01:22:54: to, you know, more environmentally favorable situations that that whole
01:22:54 --> 01:22:57: issue is, is I, I think, I think it's, it's,
01:22:57 --> 01:23:01: it's, it's out there in a lot of different things.
01:23:01 --> 01:23:04: And so I'm figuring out how, what programs to have
01:23:04 --> 01:23:07: to encourage, you know, you know, we, we can't, people
01:23:07 --> 01:23:11: who are transitioning really don't understand what they're transitioning to
01:23:12 --> 01:23:12: sometimes.
01:23:12 --> 01:23:15: So I I think we need a lot more emphasis
01:23:15 --> 01:23:17: on on those kinds of things.
01:23:19 --> 01:23:22: Do you mean like or what do you?
01:23:22 --> 01:23:24: What do you mean with when you well?

01:23:25 --> 01:23:28: As I look at various transition things in real estate,
01:23:28 --> 01:23:32: there there's, there's the, there seems to be the maybe
01:23:32 --> 01:23:33: three things.
01:23:33 --> 01:23:40: There's sure inertia, finance and and training and and and
01:23:41 --> 01:23:47: so a a general, you know, transitioning model.
01:23:47 --> 01:23:47: For.
01:23:49 --> 01:23:53: To move into environmental it also, it also keeps people
01:23:53 --> 01:23:57: in the industry who don't just don't have time to
01:23:57 --> 01:24:00: listen maybe or to think through these issues.
01:24:01 --> 01:24:04: It would give them give us and them something to
01:24:04 --> 01:24:05: work from.
01:24:06 --> 01:24:13: So it's sort of a transitioning policy legal parrot stick
01:24:13 --> 01:24:14: model.
01:24:16 --> 01:24:17: Now that's a good point.
01:24:17 --> 01:24:19: I know I it's called I module.
01:24:21 --> 01:24:26: They're currently working on benchmarking basically standards for the data
01:24:26 --> 01:24:27: center industry.
01:24:29 --> 01:24:31: Yeah, so they know they're working on that.
01:24:31 --> 01:24:34: We could, I'm thinking of inviting them to be a
01:24:34 --> 01:24:37: speaker during this data center session just to talk through,
01:24:38 --> 01:24:40: you know, what are those standards look like?
01:24:40 --> 01:24:43: They have, they have a pilot of those standards that's
01:24:43 --> 01:24:47: currently available and they're going to be developing a full
01:24:47 --> 01:24:50: set and you know, the whole program around it I
01:24:50 --> 01:24:52: think next year for 2027.
01:24:53 --> 01:24:56: Standard setting in environmental things is really important.
01:24:56 --> 01:25:00: When I, when I worked as an environmental lawyer at,
01:25:00 --> 01:25:04: at Mobile I, I helped them transition to ISO 14,000,
01:25:04 --> 01:25:08: which is a set of standards for corporations to run
01:25:08 --> 01:25:11: their environmental operations from.
01:25:11 --> 01:25:15: And so from the industry perspective, if you can have
01:25:16 --> 01:25:21: standards rather than regulations, you know, you, you sometimes get
01:25:21 --> 01:25:24: more flexibility and effectiveness.
01:25:24 --> 01:25:24: OK.
01:25:25 --> 01:25:25: That's good to know.
01:25:25 --> 01:25:26: Thank you, Chuck.
01:25:29 --> 01:25:29: Great.
01:25:29 --> 01:25:31: Any other comments?
01:25:31 --> 01:25:33: I, I guess I, I think we're, we're kind of
01:25:33 --> 01:25:36: set on these Colorado River negotiations and the data center

01:25:36 --> 01:25:38: sounds like there's a lot of interest there.
01:25:39 --> 01:25:43: After that, do we like the agriculture development interface or
01:25:43 --> 01:25:45: we want to move up water demand calculator?
01:25:45 --> 01:25:49: Are there other topics that you guys think are pressing?
01:25:57 --> 01:25:59: I think a lot of people would would want the
01:25:59 --> 01:26:00: water demand calculator.
01:26:00 --> 01:26:04: You you've got to give people something to measure so
01:26:04 --> 01:26:06: they can finance it properly.
01:26:11 --> 01:26:11: OK.
01:26:11 --> 01:26:12: We'll move that one up then.
01:26:15 --> 01:26:18: I'm sorry, who is the, who is the calculator designed
01:26:18 --> 01:26:18: for?
01:26:19 --> 01:26:20: Who would be the users of it?
01:26:22 --> 01:26:24: Lindsay, could you answer that question?
01:26:28 --> 01:26:30: I really, I don't think I can do a good
01:26:30 --> 01:26:32: job on that, but it seems I bet there's somebody
01:26:33 --> 01:26:34: on this call who can.
01:26:36 --> 01:26:38: It's is it for sizing?
01:26:40 --> 01:26:42: Oh yeah, maybe Mike wants to speak to it.
01:26:44 --> 01:26:45: And Anne unmuted.
01:26:46 --> 01:26:46: Oh, sorry, sorry.
01:26:47 --> 01:26:48: I don't know that much.
01:26:48 --> 01:26:51: I saw a presentation at the AWE conference by somebody
01:26:52 --> 01:26:55: from my atmo and I thought it was fascinating and
01:26:55 --> 01:26:57: I had know nothing about it, but it was about
01:26:57 --> 01:26:59: right sizing your pipes.
01:26:59 --> 01:27:02: I believe so, but beyond that, I'm hoping there's somebody
01:27:02 --> 01:27:05: else here that can say a lot more than that.
01:27:05 --> 01:27:06: I can speak to it.
01:27:06 --> 01:27:09: This is Mariel Miller with Fort Collins Utilities.
01:27:10 --> 01:27:14: So the water demand calculator is really only used for
01:27:14 --> 01:27:19: multi family and single family residential applications and it's typically,
01:27:19 --> 01:27:22: you know, part of the plumbing code.
01:27:22 --> 01:27:25: So in our case, we're looking for building services to
01:27:25 --> 01:27:28: be kind of implementing the code once it's in place,
01:27:29 --> 01:27:32: but it's plumbing engineers that would be using it and
01:27:32 --> 01:27:36: submitting the calculations with their building plans for the building
01:27:36 --> 01:27:40: department or building services to review and approve.
01:27:40 --> 01:27:41: So I don't know if that helps.
01:27:41 --> 01:27:43: Happy to answer other questions.
01:27:44 --> 01:27:45: That's so helpful, Mariel.

01:27:46 --> 01:27:48: We might, I might circle back with you if that's
01:27:49 --> 01:27:49: all right.
01:27:49 --> 01:27:51: Maybe you'd be a good speaker if you know all
01:27:51 --> 01:27:52: about it.
01:27:52 --> 01:27:53: Yeah, no problem.
01:27:54 --> 01:27:55: Excellent.
01:27:56 --> 01:27:59: OK, we'll, we'll move water demand calculator up and then
01:27:59 --> 01:28:02: we'll have future discussions about upcoming topics.
01:28:02 --> 01:28:07: But as always, if you have thoughts on topics, speakers,
01:28:07 --> 01:28:09: anything, please reach out to me.
01:28:10 --> 01:28:11: You can do that either in the chat box or
01:28:12 --> 01:28:12: by e-mail.
01:28:12 --> 01:28:13: I'd love to hear from you.
01:28:14 --> 01:28:18: I just want to do a quick promo.
01:28:19 --> 01:28:22: We have an annual Resilience Summit hosted by ULI and
01:28:23 --> 01:28:24: the next one is on May 8th.
01:28:25 --> 01:28:28: It's in conjunction with Uli's Global spring meeting.
01:28:28 --> 01:28:32: Our Resilience Summit is our annual climate adaptation events that
01:28:32 --> 01:28:36: convenes industry leaders and real estate and resilience from around
01:28:36 --> 01:28:40: the world to address challenges and harness the opportunities posed
01:28:40 --> 01:28:41: by climate risks.
01:28:41 --> 01:28:44: If you're going to be at Spring meeting anyway, this
01:28:44 --> 01:28:45: is a wonderful add on.
01:28:45 --> 01:28:47: It's a day long event and we really try and
01:28:47 --> 01:28:50: make it special, so we hope to see you there.
01:28:50 --> 01:28:53: You can grab it with the QR code or I'll
01:28:53 --> 01:28:55: also follow up with a link.
01:28:55 --> 01:28:56: It's, it's a great event.
01:28:56 --> 01:28:59: I've been to several of them and and they're they're
01:28:59 --> 01:29:03: always really good and both member volunteers and staff put
01:29:03 --> 01:29:04: a lot into it.
01:29:05 --> 01:29:05: Wonderful.
01:29:05 --> 01:29:06: Thank you so much, Chuck.
01:29:07 --> 01:29:08: Appreciate it.
01:29:09 --> 01:29:13: And then finally, we really want to hear from you.
01:29:14 --> 01:29:18: We're really also focused right now on getting metrics and
01:29:18 --> 01:29:21: testimonials on the impacts of our work.
01:29:21 --> 01:29:24: This helps us not only shape our work, but also
01:29:24 --> 01:29:26: helps us fund it.

01:29:26 --> 01:29:29: So if we could hear from you this, this survey
01:29:29 --> 01:29:30: is very quick.
01:29:30 --> 01:29:32: I'll put the the link in my follow up e-mail
01:29:33 --> 01:29:35: as well, but you can grab it with this link
01:29:35 --> 01:29:35: or the QR code.
01:29:37 --> 01:29:40: And really what what would be so helpful is to
01:29:40 --> 01:29:44: hear from you how the water wise development coalition or
01:29:44 --> 01:29:47: utilize water wise efforts in general have assisted you in
01:29:47 --> 01:29:48: your work.
01:29:49 --> 01:29:52: And if there's a great impact story there, it could
01:29:52 --> 01:29:55: be featured in many ways and reports or Urban land
01:29:55 --> 01:29:56: magazine articles.
01:29:57 --> 01:30:03: We love featuring how what we contribute resources or networks,
01:30:03 --> 01:30:07: speaker connections, how that can help you.
01:30:07 --> 01:30:10: So if you let us know how it's helped you,
01:30:10 --> 01:30:13: it really helps us get future support for this work
01:30:13 --> 01:30:15: and it also helps steer the work.
01:30:15 --> 01:30:16: So we'd love to hear from you.
01:30:17 --> 01:30:18: And the link is in the chat as well.
01:30:19 --> 01:30:20: Thank you, Rachel, appreciate it.
01:30:23 --> 01:30:25: And that is all.
01:30:25 --> 01:30:28: Thank you all so much for participating today.
01:30:28 --> 01:30:30: Feel free as always to reach out.
01:30:30 --> 01:30:31: We'd love to hear from you.
01:30:32 --> 01:30:33: And yeah, thank you for joining in.
01:30:33 --> 01:30:35: A huge thank you to our speakers.
01:30:35 --> 01:30:36: We really appreciate you.
01:30:39 --> 01:30:39: Thank you all.
01:30:41 --> 01:30:41: Thank you.
01:30:42 --> 01:30:43: Yeah, Thanks everyone.
01:30:43 --> 01:30:43: Have a good one.
01:30:44 --> 01:30:44: You too.
01:30:44 --> 01:30:45: Thank you.

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