

AW Draft List of 25 Demand Management Options

Options on this list have been identified as having potential for substantial water savings and were developed based on input from the Water Forward Task Force, other previous Task Force efforts, the Water Conservation Study (Maddaus 2015), other conservation studies, and Austin Water staff and the consulting team. The next step of the process is to conduct a qualitative-based screening process to identify the top 10 options for characterization. The characterization process for the top 10 options will include development of quantified water savings estimates.

1) Water Loss Control – utility side	
a. Enhance current water loss control programs	Austin Water currently implements utility-side water loss control programs (including leak detection, main break response, and water main replacements) and anticipates that additional savings could be achieved with program enhancements.
2) Automated Metering Infrastructure (AMI)	
b. Implement customer-facing programs that provide real-time water use information, including identification of customer-side leaks and other water-saving opportunities	Austin Water is currently conducting an AMI pilot program to test “smart meters” that electronically transmit water usage data, rather than being visually read by a meter reader. The pilot testing includes an interface portal that provides water use information to customers. Smart meters offer more timely data to encourage conservation and allow customers and the utility to monitor water use, including the ability to quickly identify water loss sooner and reduce the risk of meter-read inaccuracies. Preliminary project planning is underway for full-scale implementation using a phased approach.
3) Landscape Transformation Ordinances and Incentives	
c. Implement turf grass area, irrigated area, and/or irrigation system limitations	In May 2016, the City Council adopted a permanent one day per week watering schedule for automatic irrigation systems. Through landscape transformation ordinances and incentives, the focus would be to reduce irrigated areas for new development and to assist customers in complying with the watering schedule and maintaining landscapes appropriate to this region.
d. Increase WaterWise landscape rebates for residential and multifamily	Larger rebate amounts may increase participation in this program. Updated cost benefit information may be required for implementation.

e. Implement a new WaterWise landscape rebate for commercial	Commercial incentives implementation would include additional coordination with Watershed Protection on stormwater runoff controls.
4) Alternative Water ordinances and incentives (for rainwater, graywater, ac condensate)	
f. Incentivize and/or require on-site alternative water use for new developments	This strategy aligns with Watershed Protection's beneficial reuse of stormwater efforts. Potential onsite non-potable water savings for new development may depend on implementation approach and external drivers. Implementation may be facilitated by a balanced range of incentives and requirements.
g. Modify current rainwater harvesting rebate to encourage larger scale commercial systems	Increasing the \$5,000 cap per site may encourage larger commercial systems.
h. Offer an incentive to encourage the installation and use of graywater systems	This option would be a follow-up to the work done by the Graywater Workgroup that identified impediments to implementation of graywater systems. Council approved code amendments in Fall 2014 to remove impediments to installation of these types of systems while still protecting public health and safety.
i. Explore innovative building and plumbing requirements (such as dual plumbing) to expand non-potable use of alternative water sources	Focus on dual plumbing could expand non-potable end uses (such as toilet flushing) that can be provided by alternative water sources.
5) Irrigation efficiency ordinances and incentives	
j. Expand current rebate program for smart controllers responsive to leaks, high pressure, soil moisture, and rain	In May 2016, the City Council adopted a permanent one day per week watering schedule for automatic irrigation systems. The focus would be to assist customers in complying with the watering schedule and maintaining landscapes in a water efficient manner.
k. Incentivize retrofit of grandfathered spray irrigation systems to encourage more efficient irrigation systems	
l. Explore opportunities to eliminate the requirement for permanent automatic irrigation system installation for new commercial development	Advancement of this option would include additional coordination with Watershed Protection.
6) Water Rates and Fees	
m. Continue to explore opportunities to use Austin's fee and rate structures to reduce water use while maintaining affordability	Over the long term and in alignment with Imagine Austin, continue to explore ways to achieve additional water savings through Austin's fee and rate structures.

7) Development-focused water use estimates and benchmarking	
n. Require large building owners to report and benchmark their water use annually	This option would extend the current energy use and reporting program (ECAD – Energy Conservation Audit Disclosure) to water use in helping identify and achieve potential water savings.
o. Require pre-development water use estimate submittal for new development, to be reviewed by City staff for comparison to benchmarks. As part of this review, City staff will provide potential water use efficiency recommendations and information on available incentive and rebate programs.	A similar process currently exists in the Austin Energy Green Building Program, which applies to new commercial, multifamily, and residential development in certain designated areas of the city. This option would apply city-wide to new development and would focus on water use estimates and opportunities for efficiency.
8) Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) and non-residential ordinances and incentives	
p. Require AC condensate recovery systems for new commercial and multifamily	These options represent conservation best practices.
q. Require older cooling towers to meet water efficiency standards and use efficient equipment	
r. Require steam boiler and other water efficiency standards and equipment	
s. Require sellers of commercial property to provide written disclosure of non-compliant water using equipment or fixtures at point of sale to buyers and City staff	This option would extend the current energy use, reporting, and disclosure program (ECAD – Energy Conservation Audit Disclosure) to water use and would help identify and achieve potential water savings.
t. Require and/or incentivize swimming pool water use efficiency	This option would explore opportunities for implementing municipal and commercial swimming pool water use efficiency.
9) Plumbing codes and ordinances and fixture incentives	
u. Require or incentivize EPA Energy Star and/or WaterSense labeled residential and commercial fixtures and equipment	These options represent conservation best practices. These options would be in addition to existing requirements at the state level.
v. Incentivize or require toilet, urinal, and bathroom faucet aerator efficiencies.	

10) Reclaimed water ordinances and incentives (centralized purple pipe system)	
w. Expand current reclaimed system connection requirements or incentives for existing commercial cooling tower, outdoor irrigation, and other non-potable uses	These additional connection requirements or incentives will be considered separately from expansion of the reclaimed water distribution system (to be considered as part of the supply side options list).
11) Customer education and outreach programs	
x. Enhance customer engagement outreach and education programs	These options would enhance efforts on customer outreach and education.
y. Continue to enhance web-site and social media programs targeting customer water use efficiency	

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