



# Water Forward 2018 Implementation Progress





## Water Forward 2018 - FY22 Q4 Implementation Progress Report

### Water Forward 2024 (WF24)

The five-year update to the Water Forward 2018 Plan will include updated data, analyses, and community engagement activities. The final plan will include an updated 50-year portfolio of water management strategies and a 100-year adaptive management plan.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Completed Equity Trainings and Groundings for staff, Task Force, and Community Advisory Group. Reviewed draft population and employment projections in Delphi sessions including Development Services and the City Demographer. Developed streamflow sequences for climate-adjusted hydrology for use in WF scenarios. Met with the CTAG to discuss streamflow methodology and ensembling process.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

Delayed; Development of population and demand projections and other plan components will take more time than previously planned. The revised WF24 schedule targets plan completion by mid-2024.

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Will hold WF University Webinar. Staff and CAG to collect input to inform Equity and Affordability Roadmap (EARM). Integrating feedback into revised population and employment projections. Begin integration into the updated Disaggregated Demand Model. Develop stochastically sampled sequences of streamflow for use in WF scenarios. Continue to meet with CTAG to get input on process.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

5 - # of community engagement events  
~85 - # of meeting attendees

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY23: Complete EARM and develop E&A tool. Develop demand projections, identify water needs, characterize strategies, develop portfolios.

### My ATX Water

This program will replace more than 250,000 analog water meters with digitally read water meters connected to a wireless network. The My ATX Water program also includes a brand-new customer portal that provides up-to-date water usage metrics, leak alerts, emergency alerts, water conservation tips, and many other customizable features.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

My ATX Water contracted vendor, Aclara, continues pre-install field surveys and meter installations around Austin, bringing the total number of installs to ~75,000. The My ATX Water customer portal has almost 25,000 registered, engaged users and continues to grow. A marketing campaign for portal sign ups over the summer helped to expand program reach.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

Delayed, but continuing to catch up. In the past month, Aclara has hit a stride and technicians are installing meters at a faster rate.

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Meter surveys and installs continue around Austin, increasing in frequency as more installers are hired. A marketing campaign to celebrate the 100,000th install will help continue to draw eyes to the program.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

~75,000 - # of meters installed  
~25,000 - # of customer portal registrations  
~30% - Avg. customer portal registration rate  
~43,000 - # of continuous usage alerts

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY23: Installation of 250,000 meters will continue.  
FY25: Anticipated project completion.

### Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance

AW will create an Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for new single-family residences that will set requirements for conserving water in irrigation systems and landscapes.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Recommended activities presented to the Task Force (09/20), public meetings (11/01 and 11/07), Resource Management Commission (RMC, 11/15) and Water & Wastewater Commission (WWWC, 12/14). Activities have also been posted to the SpeakUp Austin page (10/18). Additional meetings have been held with other City departments.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Drafting ordinance language after public/stakeholder/commission feedback. Submit for affordability impact review and legal review. Hold public meeting to present the final recommendations.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

1 - # of community engagement events  
10 - # of meeting attendees

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY23: Launch a Request for Council Action through the Task Force, RMC, and WWWW to City Council before summer recess.

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### OWRS, Benchmarking and Reclaimed Code Changes

This suite of code changes includes requirements that site plan submittals include water benchmarking applications, extends the current reclaimed connection requirements, and requires that new developments  $\geq 250,000$  square feet install onsite water reuse systems.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Worked with internal City of Austin stakeholders to ensure implementation of mandatory program is smooth across departments  
 -working with Watershed Protection to develop dual crediting policies.  
 Developed a scope for analysis to determine appropriate credit for RWH systems  
 -developed billing and metering approach for OWRS  
 -working with Law on ordinance language.  
 -established and programmed reviews in city's permitting database for compliance with OWRS and reclaimed connection requirements  
 -initiated dual plumbing cost study to better understand cost implication of proposed Ordinance.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

N/A

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Continue work from FY22 Q4. Planned outreach on reclaimed mandatory connection requirements and new procedures for permit review and meter approval.

#### Future Implementation Steps

Work towards Council adoption of Mandatory OWRS ordinance in December 2023. Compile Affordability Impact Statement by September 2023. Plan for external stakeholder engagement. Update OWRS guidance materials to reflect mandatory program requirements.

### Onsite Water Reuse Systems (OWRS)

In December 2020, the City of Austin adopted the Onsite Water Reuse Systems Ordinance to regulate the collection, treatment, and use of alternative water sources for non-potable uses in multi-family and commercial buildings. AW's new OWRS team implements these requirements and assists the development community with the benchmarking and OWRS application processes.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Staff has reviewed OWRS applications that have come in and fielded questions on several potential applications. Staff continues to review water benchmarking applications for all site plans submitted after Dec. 1, 2021 and field questions regarding OWRS applications.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

50 - # of benchmarking applications received (this quarter)  
 15 - # of benchmarking applications received for developments  $>250,000$  Square Feet (this quarter)  
 4 - # of OWRS applications received (FYTD)  
 2 - # of OWRS incentive applications received (FYTD)

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Staff is using benchmarking process to identify projects that are required to implement OWRS and making sure project owners are aware of these requirements early in the process. Staff is continuing to work with OWRS applicants to get their systems permitted and incentive program funds applied.

#### Future Implementation Steps

Staff will work on programmatic changes and implementation steps in preparation for the mandatory OWRS program. Development of the Affordability Impact Statement will begin in FY23. Will complete a national OWRS operator certification program in FY23.



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### Decentralized Reclaimed

Decentralized reclaimed is the collection of effluent from the wastewater system in new development areas, treatment to non-drinking water quality at a small wastewater treatment plant, and reuse at the community scale via a decentralized reclaimed water distribution system that would be separate from the centralized reclaimed water system.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

AW has made progress on Decentralized Reclaimed Area Planning efforts for Northeast and Southeast regions of the Austin Water service area and are targeting end of FY23 Q1 for initial drafts. Initial work has begun to delineate potential decentralized reclaimed service areas in more detail.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

AW will continue developing infrastructure planning documents related to decentralized reclaimed for the Northeast and Southeast service regions.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

3 - # of decentralized reclaimed water customers  
42.8 - Decentralized reclaimed water use in Q4 (MG)

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY22: Staff will continue development of Decentralized Reclaimed planning products and will begin updating analysis in preparation of Water Forward 2024 Plan Update.

### Centralized Reclaimed

Austin Water provides highly treated wastewater through the centralized reclaimed water system for non-potable uses such as irrigation, cooling, manufacturing, and toilet flushing. The Water Forward plan includes expansion of the existing reclaimed water system to meet non-potable demands.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Design is ongoing for the final Completing the Core mains. Onion Creek Phase 1 construction has started.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Continue design and construction of the final Completing the Core mains.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

~185 - # of centralized reclaimed water customers  
588 - Centralized reclaimed water use in Q4 (MG)  
1,533 - Centralized reclaimed water use FYTD (MG)  
1,402 - FY22 Goal (MG)

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY26: Estimated completion of all Completing the Core mains as well as completion of SAR and Montopolis Pump Station Upgrades.

### Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)

Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a water supply strategy to store available water in a natural aquifer during wet times for later recovery and use. An ASR project will make Austin's water supply more resilient to the effects of climate change and drought and could provide a second source of water during emergencies, like freeze events or flooding.

#### FY22 Q4 Progress

Began work to develop ASR project alternatives and finalize evaluation criteria and scoring. Planned virtual and in person ASR community workshops for late October 2022. Purpose of the workshops is to get community input on the ASR evaluation process, including the technical criteria and equity and affordability evaluation framework.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY23 Q1 Activities

Conduct ASR community workshops in Oct. 2022 and incorporate community input into ASR evaluation process. Develop project alternatives and begin the scoring process.

#### FY22 Q4 Stats

7 - # of community engagement events  
<10 - # of meeting attendees

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY22-23: Initial contract and identify where to pilot.  
FY24-27: Design, construct, and test ASR pilot. Develop recommendations for full-scale ASR.  
FY28-35: Preliminary engineering, design, construction of full-scale ASR.

2040: 3,560 AF/Year

2040: 15,480 Acre Feet/Year

2040: 60,000 Acre Feet/Year





# Questions

