

Mission Statement, Guiding Principles, and Objectives

The mission statement, guiding principles, and objectives below build on the work performed to develop the Water Forward 2018 plan and incorporate input from the current Water Forward Task Force. Upcoming public workshops planned for June 2022 will share these key plan components with the broader community. Community input gathered through these public workshops and the Community Ambassadors Group work to develop the Equity and Affordability Roadmap may further inform refinement of the plan's mission statement, guiding principles, and objectives.

Mission Statement

The purpose of Water Forward is to develop and implement diverse and environmentally conscious water management strategies to adapt to growth, drought, and climate change and ensure a sustainable, resilient, equitable, and affordable water future for our community for the next 100 years.

Guiding Principles

- Create a plan that is resilient to growth, drought and climate change
- Use a holistic and inclusive approach to water resource planning that incorporates the Austin community's values
- Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources, including reuse, conservation, and efficiency
- Protect the health of the Colorado River and natural environment
- Minimize implementation and operational risk
- Use an equity and affordability lens to develop and implement the plan
- Focus on locally available water supplies

Water Forward 2024 – Task 3 Refine Planning Methodology

Guiding Principles, Objectives, Performance Measures

Guiding Principles	Equity	Objectives	Performance Measures (Specific measures to be determined)
Create a plan that is resilient to growth, drought, and climate change	Procedural	- Incorporate methods to plan for uncertainty with strategies that are resilient through a range of possible futures - Focus primarily on long term water supplies, but consider emergency water supply benefits	Document process to incorporate climate data, perform scenario planning, and evaluate resiliency benefits
	Distributive	Avoid severe water shortages during drought and a variety of climate change scenarios	WAM modeling results
Use a holistic and inclusive approach to water resource planning that incorporates the Austin community's values	Procedural	- Meaningfully engage the Water Forward Task Force, other City departments, regional partners, and the community throughout the process - Use multicriteria decision making and reflect community values in the evaluation of trade-offs	- Track engagement and coordination efforts - Document inclusion of community input throughout the planning process
Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources, including reuse, conservation, and efficiency	Procedural	Plan for water supply, reuse, and demand management options for the City of Austin	Document process to select and characterize strategies
	Distributive	- Focus on water conservation and water use efficiency - Include diverse water management strategies that make use of all water sources.	- Potable GPCD - Portfolio diversity score
Use an equity and affordability lens to develop and implement the plan	Procedural	- Use an equity lens throughout the planning process - Evaluate affordability impacts in a holistic manner that balances near-term and long-term costs	Develop a WF24 Equity and Affordability Roadmap
	Distributive	Minimize impacts and maximize benefits of plan outcomes for vulnerable communities	- Cost (lifecycle, capital, O&M) - Equity & Affordability Tool
Protect the health of the Colorado River and natural environment.	Distributive	Develop strategies that continue to protect the natural environment, including source and downstream water quality	- Net return flows - Operational energy use - Water quality impacts
Minimize implementation and operational risk	Distributive	Develop strategies that are technically, socially, and economically feasible and can be implemented and operated with a manageable level of risk	- Implementation and operational risk score - System resiliency benefits
Focus on locally available water supplies	Distributive	Develop strategies that make use of locally available and AW-controlled water resources	Volume of local and AW-controlled water resources