



Water Forward 2024 Community Engagement Update

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Fall 2023 and Winter 2024 Community Engagement Schedule

- Goal: To educate the community and get feedback on WF18 plan and WMS to inform WF24 plan update

	Timeframe	Description
2023	September	Began refining Equity and Affordability Roadmap history section to post on SpeakUp! Austin page
	October	Eblast to organizations working with marginalized communities to set up 1:1s regarding WF24
		Eblast to Austin and Hill Country area environmental organizations about Colorado River Land Analysis project
	November	Launch survey to get community feedback regarding WMS for WF24 update
		Began holding 1:1 meetings with organizations
2024	January	Hold in person and virtual workshops with broader community
	February	Continue to hold 1:1 meetings with organizations
	March	Review feedback from survey and meetings with organizations

Community Organizations

African American Youth Harvest Foundation	Austin Area Urban League	Austin Community Foundation
Austin Justice Coalition	Austin Latino Coalition	Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO)
Casa Marianella	Central Health	Community Powered Workshop
Diversity, Awareness, Wellness, Action (DAWA)	El Buen Samaritano	Equidad ATX
Go Austin Vamos Austin (GAVA)	Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce	Greater Austin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Green is the New Black	Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders Austin (HABLA)	Hispanic Women's Network of Texas
Huston-Tillotson University	Las Comadres	Lifeworks Austin
NAACP	National Council for Negro Women	St. David's Foundation
UpTogether	Young Hispanic Association Austin	

Community Organizations

Purpose

- To get community feedback regarding Water Management Strategies for WF24 update and Equity and Affordability Road Map approach

Audience

- Organizations that work with marginalized communities

Responses

- Positive, glad we are thinking about these issues and planning for solutions
- Try to engage people in everyday places (grocery store, library, etc.)
- More education campaigns



Survey

Purpose

- To get community feedback regarding Water Management Strategies for WF24 update

Audiences

- Austin Energy sent to geographically statistically valid population in November, kept open for three weeks
- Austin Water then added survey to SpeakUp! Austin page for another three weeks

Responses

- 101 responses from AE survey
- 473 responses from SpeakUp! Austin page



Survey Question 1 – Supply Strategies

The following is a list of water supply strategies. Please rank these strategies in order of priority for implementation.

1 = Top priority 9 = Lowest priority

_____ **Aquifer Storage and Recovery** – storing potable drinking water underground in an aquifer during wet times for use in drought or emergencies

_____ **Reclaimed Water** – increasing use of treated wastewater for non-potable uses such as irrigation and toilet flushing

_____ **Direct Potable Reuse** – using a pipe to transport reclaimed water directly from a wastewater plant to a water plant to be treated to drinking water standards

_____ **Indirect Potable Reuse** – during an emergency, transporting reclaimed water from a wastewater plant to add to lake storage so that lake water can be withdrawn and treated to drinking water standards

_____ **Additional Highland Lakes Supply** – contracting for additional supplies from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)

_____ **New Off-Channel Reservoir** – constructing a reservoir off of the of the Colorado River and storing water for use

_____ **Inter-basin Transfer** - importing surface water supplies from another river basin using a pipeline

_____ **Brackish Groundwater Desalination** – treating salty groundwater to potable drinking water standards

_____ **Seawater Desalination** – treating water from the Gulf of Mexico to potable drinking water standards and transporting that water to the City of Austin



Austin Energy Results

Reclaimed Water – increasing use of treated wastewater for non-potable uses such as irrigation and toilet flushing	3.61
Aquifer Storage and Recovery – storing potable drinking water underground in an aquifer during wet times for use in drought or emergencies	3.86
Indirect Potable Reuse – during an emergency, transporting reclaimed water from a wastewater plant to add to lake storage so that lake water can be withdrawn and treated to drinking water standards	4.33
Direct Potable Reuse – using a pipe to transport reclaimed water directly from a wastewater plant to a water plant to be treated to drinking water standards	4.73
New Off-Channel Reservoir – constructing a reservoir off of the of the Colorado River and storing water for use	4.90
Additional Highland Lakes Supply – contracting for additional supplies from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)	5.35
Brackish Groundwater Desalination – treating salty groundwater to potable drinking water standards	5.35
Seawater Desalination – treating water from the Gulf of Mexico to potable drinking water standards and transporting that water to the City of Austin	6.22
Inter-basin Transfer - importing surface water supplies from another river basin using a pipeline	6.65

SpeakUp! Austin Results

100%	Reclaimed Water – increasing use of treated wastewater for non-potable uses such as irrigation and toilet flushing	Rank: 2.43
100%	Aquifer Storage and Recovery – storing potable drinking water underground in an aquifer during wet times for use in drought or emergencies	Rank: 3.43
100%	Brackish Groundwater Desalination – treating salty groundwater to potable drinking water standards	Rank: 4.87
100%	Direct Potable Reuse – using a pipe to transport reclaimed water directly from a wastewater plant to a water plant to be treated to drinking water standards	Rank: 5.00
100%	New Off-Channel Reservoir – constructing a reservoir off of the of the Colorado River and storing water for use	Rank: 5.17
100%	Indirect Potable Reuse – during an emergency, transporting reclaimed water from a wastewater plant to add to lake storage so that lake water can be withdrawn and treated to drinking water standards	Rank: 5.61
100%	Additional Highland Lakes Supply – contracting for additional supplies from the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)	Rank: 5.74
100%	Inter-basin Transfer - importing surface water supplies from another river basin using a pipeline	Rank: 6.13
100%	Seawater Desalination – treating water from the Gulf of Mexico to potable drinking water standards and transporting that water to the City of Austin	Rank: 6.61



Survey Question 2 – Demand Strategies

The following is a list of demand management strategies. Please rank these strategies in order of priority for implementation. (For reference, descriptions start on page 12: Water Forward Integrated Water Resource Plan) 1 = Top priority 7 = Lowest priority

_____ **My ATX Water** – using a customer portal to provide water usage data, leak alerts, emergency alerts, and water conservation tips

_____ **Fixing water pipe leaks and other system losses** - reducing water lost from water system pipes and facilities

_____ **Ordinances to Reduce Outdoor Water Use** – requiring drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency

_____ **Rebates to Reduce Outdoor Water Use** - encouraging drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency by offsetting costs

_____ **Ordinances for Onsite Water Reuse** – requiring use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands such as irrigation and toilet flushing

_____ **Rebates for Onsite Water Reuse** – encouraging use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands by offsetting costs

_____ **Water Use Budgeting** – requiring that a building use an amount of water that is equal to or lower than similar building types



Austin Energy Results

Fixing water pipe leaks and other system losses - reducing water lost from water system pipes and facilities	2.02
Ordinances to Reduce Outdoor Water Use – requiring drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency	3.76
Rebates to Reduce Outdoor Water Use - encouraging drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency by offsetting costs	3.83
My ATX Water – using a customer portal to provide water usage data, leak alerts, emergency alerts, and water conservation tips	4.24
Rebates for Onsite Water Reuse – encouraging use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands by offsetting costs	4.24
Ordinances for Onsite Water Reuse – requiring use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands such as irrigation and toilet flushing	4.71
Water Use Budgeting – requiring that a building use an amount of water that is equal to or lower than similar building types	5.20

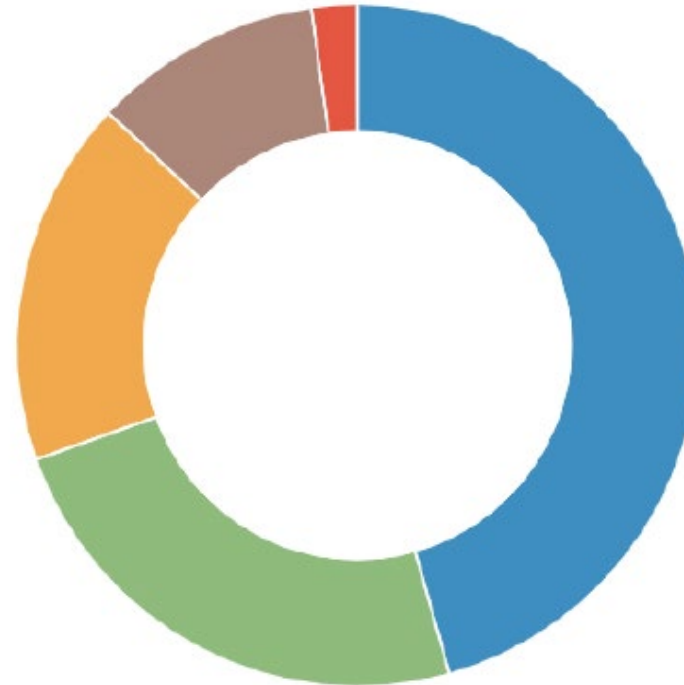
SpeakUp! Austin Results

100%	Fixing water pipe leaks and other system losses - reducing water lost from water system pipes and facilities	Rank: 1.50
100%	Ordinances to Reduce Outdoor Water Use – requiring drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency	Rank: 3.73
100%	Rebates to Reduce Outdoor Water Use - encouraging drought tolerant and water efficient landscapes and increased irrigation system efficiency by offsetting costs	Rank: 3.77
100%	Rebates for Onsite Water Reuse – encouraging use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands by offsetting costs	Rank: 4.05
100%	My ATX Water – using a customer portal to provide water usage data, leak alerts, emergency alerts, and water conservation tips	Rank: 4.27
100%	Ordinances for Onsite Water Reuse – requiring use of water generated on a site like air conditioning condensate, rainwater, or graywater to meet non-potable demands such as irrigation and toilet flushing	Rank: 5.05
100%	Water Use Budgeting – requiring that a building use an amount of water that is equal to or lower than similar building types	Rank: 5.64



Survey Question 3 – Direct Potable Reuse

The 2018 Water Forward Plan does not include a Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) strategy. Direct Potable Reuse is the use of highly treated wastewater effluent as a water supply source for our drinking water treatment plants. **Direct Potable Reuse should be considered in the 2024 update and evaluated based on feasibility, cost, and other criteria.**



Survey Question 4 – Open Ended

Do you have any other comments, recommendations for new strategies, or modifications to current long-term strategies that you'd like to see considered in the 2024 Water Forward Plan update?

Key Take Aways

- 💧 Support for considering DPR
- 💧 Support for focusing on demand strategies first, then supply
- 💧 Support for more restrictions and enforcement for outdoor water usage
- 💧 Concerns and potential misunderstandings about ASR implementation
- 💧 Concerns about growth in Austin



Survey: Key Take Aways

Responses from AE survey were very similar to SpeakUp! Austin responses

Strategies were ranked similarly to how AW is prioritizing them

The majority of people think that DPR should be considered in 2024 update



Colorado River Land Analysis

This project supports Water Forward's guiding principle of protecting the health of the Colorado River through conservation of land in the Highland Lakes Watershed.

- Began outreach in October 2023
- We reached out to:
 - Austin area environmental organizations
 - Hill Country area environmental organizations
- The purpose of outreach:
 - Create ongoing partnerships with organizations that can inform our final plan report



Colorado River Land Analysis Outreach

Austin Area Environmental Organizations

Austin Parks Foundation
Austin Sierra Club
Campus Environmental Center
[Clean Water Action](#)
Colorado River Conservancy
Earth Day Austin
EcoRise
[Environment Texas](#)
Environmental Defense Fund
Friends of Barton Springs Pool
Green is the New Black
[Interfaith Environmental Network](#)
Lone Star Sierra Club
PODER
Save Barton Creek Association
Save our Springs Alliance
[Texas Water Foundation](#)

Hill Country Environmental Organizations

[Colorado River Land Trust](#)
[Hill Country Alliance](#)
[Hill Country Conservancy](#)
Llano River Watershed Alliance
[National Wildlife Federation](#)
[Natural Resources Conservation Service](#)
Nature Conservancy
Preserve our Hill Country Environment
Texas Agricultural Land Trust
[Texas Hill Country Conservation Network](#)
Texas Land Conservancy
The Watershed Association
Texas Collaborative Conservation Network
[Texas Land Trust Council](#)
[Texas Partnership for Forests and Water](#)



Feedback about CRLA 1:1 Meeting



Positive



Excited we are moving forward
with this project and are looking
forward to being involved



Questions?



Austin
WATER

