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February Water Matters

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Water Matters



Tucson's long-term water planning for changing Colorado River conditions

For decades, Tucson Water has planned for a future where the Colorado River would be less predictable. While discussions continue about how the river will be managed in the years ahead, Tucson Water's long-standing approach has not changed. Tucson is well positioned to provide safe, reliable water for our community – today and for generations to come.

Tucson is often recognized as one of the most water-prepared cities in the Western United States. This didn't happen by chance. For more than 40 years, Tucson Water has invested in a diverse mix of water resources that includes Colorado River water delivered by the Central Arizona Project (CAP), groundwater, recycled water, and rain and stormwater. By not relying on a single source, Tucson is better able to adapt when conditions change.

We have also built and maintained facilities that allow us to store water underground for future use. This stored water acts like a savings account, helping protect the community during dry years or reduced river deliveries.

Planning for Colorado River shortages is not new for Tucson. Since the 1980s, Tucson Water has anticipated that river conditions would fluctuate and that deliveries could be reduced during times of drought. This forward-thinking approach has guided major investments, from building recharge and recovery facilities in Avra Valley, to partnering with regional and tribal partners, to conserving water in Lake Mead. These actions help avoid emergency decisions and support long-term stability.

This long-term approach is reflected in our One Water 2100 Plan that Tucson's Mayor and Council adopted in 2023. Shaped by extensive community input, Tucson's One Water 2100 Plan is a bold roadmap for managing water through the end of the century.

The plan prepares for Colorado River shortages while keeping water reliable, affordable, and sustainable – no matter what future conditions bring.

Equally important is the role our community plays. Because of decades of conservation, Tucson has enough water to meet its needs, but not enough to waste. Tucsonans have built a strong conservation ethic, saving billions of gallons of water through everyday choices like desert-adapted landscaping, efficient fixtures, and participation in Tucson Water programs. These individual choices make a real difference for the entire community.

As conversations about the Colorado River continue, Tucson Water will keep focusing on what it does best: planning ahead, investing wisely, and partnering with the community to use water responsibly.

Learn more about how Tucson is preparing for the future.

[One Water Tucson](#)

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Conservation programs making a difference

From brushing our teeth and rinsing vegetables to flushing toilets and washing clothes, we rely on water throughout the day – often without giving it much thought. Taken together, these everyday actions can use hundreds of gallons of water in a single household each day.

By replacing older fixtures and appliances with WaterSense®-labeled, water-efficient models, households can save more than **20,000 gallons of water each** year while still enjoying the same level of comfort and performance.

We recognize that making these upgrades requires an upfront investment. To help reduce this barrier, Tucson Water has spent decades investing in rebate and direct-install programs, as well as grant and loan opportunities, to ensure all customers can access high-efficiency products, especially those who may not be able to pay upfront.

Through partnerships with the Sonora Environmental Research Institute (SERI) and Community Home Repair Projects of Arizona (CHRP), Tucson Water is able to deliver targeted programs for income-qualified customers. Our partners help us provide the following services:

Free emergency plumbing repairs – Assistance is available for customers unable to cover the cost of urgent leak repairs.

Free toilet replacement – Customers in need of replacing older, inefficient toilets may be eligible for up to two toilets per property.

Discounted high-efficiency clothes washers – Customers in need of replacing an older, inefficient clothes washer may be eligible to get a \$200 clothes washer and opt into a zero-interest payment plan.

Rainwater harvesting system grants and loans – Customers may be eligible for up to a \$1,000 grant and up to a \$2,000 zero-interest loans to help cover the cost of a system.

Gray water harvesting system grants and loans – Customers may be eligible for up to a \$500 grant and up to a \$500 zero-interest loan to help cover the cost of a permanent gray water irrigation system.

Together, these programs help conserve water, lower utility costs, and improve the comfort of homes across our community.

[See if You Qualify](#)



City of Tucson Environmental Services



Fast fashion is out this February!

Embrace clothing sustainability and a zero-waste lifestyle this year! Here are some tips to avoid the fast fashion trends:

- Shop mindfully, go to thrift stores for costumes and more
- Before discarding clothes, use t-shirts as cleaning rags
- Purchase quality, timeless pieces, instead of trendy pieces
- Ask yourself before making a purchase, "Do I really need this item? How often will I wear or use it?"

Know Where to Throw

Pima County Wastewater Reclamation



Watch the skies!

Pima County Wastewater Reclamation is proud to offer birdwatching at two of our water reclamation facilities (WRF):

Green Valley WRF

2201 N. Old Nogales Highway
7 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays

Avra Valley WRF

10000 W. Snyder Hill Road
7 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

For more information, call (520) 724-6500



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Tucson Water is a department of the City of Tucson



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