



# CALWEP PLENARY UPDATE DECEMBER 9, 2021

Ron Burke, President and CEO



Alliance  
*for* Water  
Efficiency





## WHAT'S NEW?

- Infrastructure bill signed into law with \$400M (over 5 years) in new funding for western states water efficiency (Water Smart grants)
- Build Back Better Act passes U.S. House w/ tax-free water conservation rebates language
  - [Sign-on letter to U.S. Senate](#) (deadline today!)
- 35 organizations sign letter supporting Dept. of Energy's proposal to reverse weakened showerhead standards
- 40 organizations sign letter encouraging USEPA to reference and prioritize WaterSense in its Strategic Plan
- Tracking Tool v 4.0 released + in-depth training webinar
- Selected and announced 5 new *Learning Landscapes* grantees
- Revamped Home Water Works Website and Calculator launched
  - Customizations available for water agencies
- Successful committee meetings, Annual Meeting/Reception, and WSI Plenary Reception honoring Mary Ann in Las Vegas
- Inaugural Member of the Year Award presented (SNWA)
- AWE Awarded WaterSense Excellence Award for Strategic Collaboration

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## SUMMARY OF INFRASTRUCTURE BILL WATER COMPONENTS

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### **\$55B over five years for drinking water and wastewater spending, including:**

- \$400 million for WaterSmart Water Efficiency grants.
- \$1 billion for water recycling (Bureau of Reclamation).
  - \$550 million for the Title XVI Water Reuse Grants Program
  - \$450 million for new competitive grant program for large-scale water recycling projects.
- \$11.713 billion for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF).
- \$11.713 billion for the Clean Water SRF.
  - For both SRFs, states must award at least 49% of their funds as grants or full principal forgiveness loans.
- \$15 billion for lead service line replacement projects. Funds provided via the DWSRF; no state match is required and 49% of funds must be awarded by states as grants or principal forgiveness loans.
- \$4 billion to address emerging contaminants in drinking water “with a focus on” PFAS. Funds provided to states via the DWSRF with no required state match. Funds must be awarded by states as grants or principal forgiveness loans.
- \$5 billion to help small and disadvantaged communities address emerging drinking water contaminants.
- \$1 billion to help wastewater systems address emerging contaminants. Funds distributed through the Clean Water SRF and will not be subject to state matching requirements.
- New EPA programs such as a climate resilience program for drinking water systems and a low-income water ratepayer assistance pilot program. Funding not included – requires passage of appropriations language.

# SUMMARY OF BUILD BACK BETTER ACT WATER COMPONENTS

- **Water conservation rebates made tax-free.**
- \$10 billion in grants to address lead in drinking water.
- \$1.85 billion for sewer Overflow and Stormwater Reuse Municipal Grants.
- \$550 million for domestic water supply projects for western states communities that lack reliable access to domestic water supplies.
- \$100 million for large-scale water reuse projects that reduce water diversions from drought-stricken river basins.
- \$125 million for alternative water source projects, including projects for groundwater recharge and potable reuse.
- \$150 million for the installation, repair, or replacement of domestic septic systems; half for low-income households.
- \$97 million rural/low-income water and wastewater programs.
- \$225 million water bill assistance for low-income customers.
- \$975 million for GSA's environmental sustainability programs.
- \$3.25 billion for GSA low-carbon procurement.
- \$6.26 billion for home energy-saving programs.
- \$2 billion for energy upgrades to affordable housing.
- \$2 billion for rural rental housing: energy and water efficiency, removing health hazards.



# 2021 WEBINARS

1. **January 14** – Water and Planning Network: Source Water Protection
2. **February 25** – AWE Innovations in Efficiency Series: Affordable CII Water and Energy Savings Initiatives
3. **March 11** – EPA/AWE Outdoor Water Webinar Series: The Benefits of Soil Moisture Sensors
4. **March 25** – Water and Planning Network: Water and Comprehensive Planning --- Theory to Practice
5. **April 8** – AWE Cooling Technology Study: Identifying Cooling Towers and Estimating Water Use
6. **May 25** – AWE/CalWEP Present: Preparing for Drought
7. **July 20** – When in Drought: Lessons Learned, in collaboration with USEPA WaterSense
8. **August 26** - Critical Elements of Effective Water Efficiency Programs - The New AWWA G480-20 Standard
9. **October 13** – AWE’s Direct Distribution Program with Flume
10. **October 27** – The New Version 4 of AWE’s Water Conservation Tracking Tool
11. **November 3** - AWE’s Direct Distribution Program with Rachio
12. **November 16** –Don Schlenger’s AMI Guidance Manual for Water Utilities

<https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resources/webinars>

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# DISCOUNTED PRICES FOR AWE MEMBERS

- **WaterWays Rebate Platform**

- Accepts online, digital applications for water efficient product rebates and irrigation audit schedule information through WaterRebates.com
- AWE members can license WaterWays® (and WaterRebates.com at your option) at a discounted annual rate.
- [aiqueous.com/waterways](http://aiqueous.com/waterways)



- **Open Channel Systems**

- Combines business analytics with conservation and communications tools to comprehensively manage finished water.
- AWE members receive a 10% discount.
- [openchannelsystems.com](http://openchannelsystems.com)



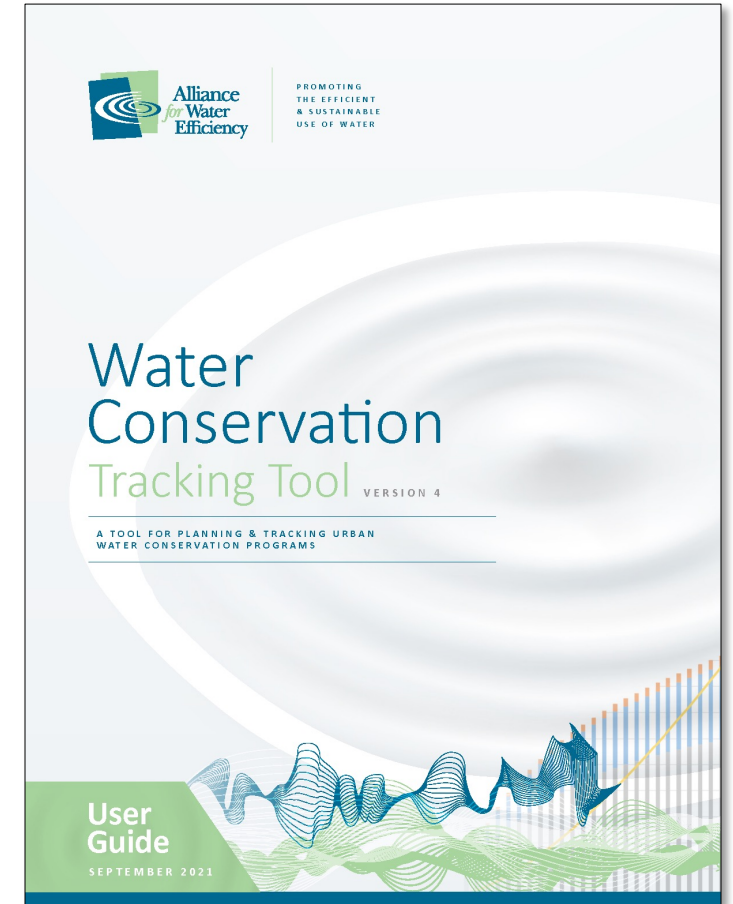
- **ConserveTrack**

- A conservation platform and a software toolbox that can quickly configure a custom system specifically for your utility.
- AWE members receive a 10% discount
- [ConserveTrack.com](http://ConserveTrack.com)




## TRACKING TOOL VERSION 4.0 UPDATE RELEASED

- Updated Tracking Tool and User Guide
- Released September 15
  - Standard North American Edition
  - California Edition
- Webinar held October 27
- Partner project with CalWEP
- Biggest update since initial development
- Updated library of water conservation measures (50 measures)
- Water loss control functionality added for the first time




# VERSION 4.0 OF THE WATER CONSERVATION TRACKING TOOL

- Free resource for CalWEP/AWE members
- Request it here:  
<https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resources/topic/water-conservation-tracking-tool>
- Access the In-Depth Webinar here:  
<https://www.allianceforwaterefficiency.org/resources/webinars/version-4-awes-water-conservation-tracking-tool>



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IMPACT **RESOURCES** NEWS EVENTS MEMBERS WATER SAVING TIPS ABOUT

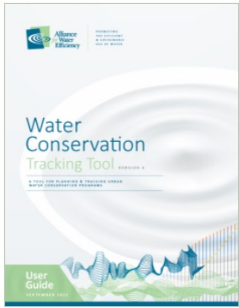
## Water Conservation Tracking Tool

Section: [Water Conservation Programs, Planning, and Evaluation](#)

The AWE Water Conservation Tracking Tool is an Excel-based spreadsheet tool for evaluating the water savings, costs, and benefits of urban water conservation programs and for projecting future water demands. In addition to providing users a standardized methodology for water savings and benefit-cost accounting, the tool includes a library of 50 pre-defined, fully parameterized conservation activities from which users can construct conservation programs. Water managers can use the tool in a variety of ways to aid their water resource planning and operations.

For example:

- The tool can be used to quickly compare alternative conservation measures in terms of their water savings potential, impact on system costs, and potential benefits to utility customers.
- The tool can be used in the development of long-range conservation plans. It can be used to construct conservation portfolios containing up to 200 separate conservation program activities.
- The tool can be used as an accounting system for tracking the implementation, water savings, costs, and benefits of actual conservation activities over time.
- The California Edition of the tool can be used by California members to compare projected water use to their AB 1668/SB 606 water use objectives.



Version 4.0 of the tracking tool was released in September 2021. The latest update was done in collaboration with the California Water Efficiency Partnership, and the California Edition was supported by funders listed at the bottom of this page.

**How the Alliance Will Help**

The Alliance will provide a detailed *User Guide* with the Tool, as well as one (1) hour of free technical assistance to any member using the Tool. Please let us know about your experiences with the Tool! We would like to feature successful examples of the Tool in use on our web site, so please let us know how it has worked for you.

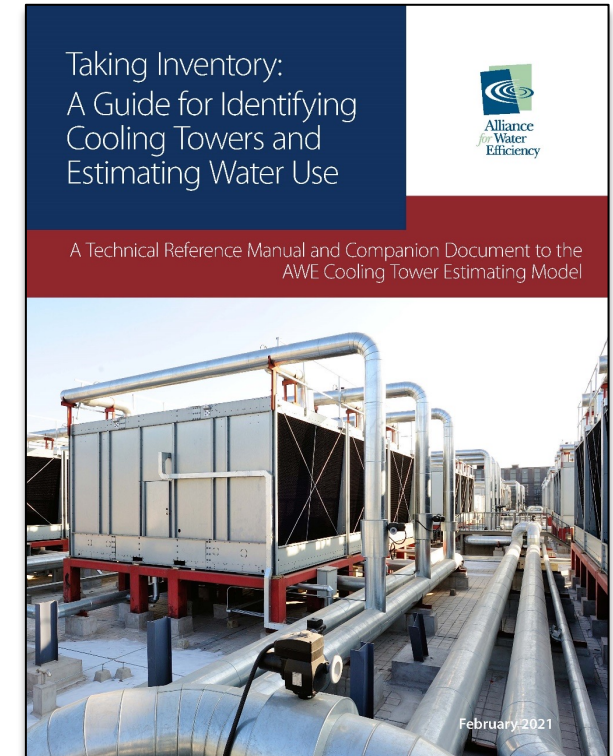
**Member-Only Benefit**

The Tool is available free of charge to AWE members, as a member-only benefit, but it is subject to your agreement to the Water Conservation Tracking Tool Terms of Use. If not already, sign-in below to gain access to the [Terms of Use](#) form. [Not a current member, join now!](#)



## COOLING TOWER TECHNOLOGIES PROJECT

- Cooling Tower Estimating Model (CTEM) and Guide for Identifying Cooling Towers Released February 24.
- Determining the conservation potential for improvements to existing cooling tower systems
- Determining water savings potential of implementing alternative cooling technologies; report and market penetration model coming in January
- Creating a How-To Guide for water agencies to operate a cooling tower efficiency program (Q2)
- Creating a Cooling Tower Audit Assessment form and a return-on-investment calculator (Q2)
- WSI Presentation



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## WATER AFFORDABILITY ASSESSMENT FOR LONG BEACH, CA

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- AWE worked with Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Long Beach Water
- Evaluated the impact of a rate restructure on water affordability
- Evaluated conservation's role in lowering bills and future options
- Report nearly final (January release)
- WSI Presentation
- Potential direct-install pilot project for disadvantaged households
  - Donations from Kohler and Whirlpool
  - Evaluation component



Long Beach Water

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## AMI LEAK NOTIFICATION PROJECT

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- Grant from Metropolitan Water District of So. Cal
- Data analysis begins Q1 2022 and will:
  - estimate water savings resulting from AMI-enabled customer leak notifications
  - explore barriers to leak notifications in the CII sector
  - outline methods other utilities can employ for similar analysis
- City of Sacramento
- Sacramento Suburban Water District
- Eastern Municipal Water District (CA)
- City of Ft. Worth, TX





## ADDITIONAL 2022 PRIORITIES

- Update AWE Strategic Plan
- Complete DEIJ policy and plan
- Helping members access new \$\$ available for water efficiency
- Advocacy to direct \$\$ to good water efficiency projects
- 2022 State Water Efficiency and Sustainability Scorecard
- Regional Water Conservation Symposia
- Roundtable discussions on specific topics, e.g., reaching disadvantaged households with conservation programs
- Survey members to document what type of water conservation programs are active
- Regional Water Authority (CA)/Bonneville Foundation: CII Landscape Upgrades project



A SINGULAR VOICE AND A PLATFORM FOR  
WATER USE EFFICIENCY AND WATER  
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NORTH AMERICA.



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