



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT AWE?

CalWEP 2026 Spring Plenary

March 18, 2026

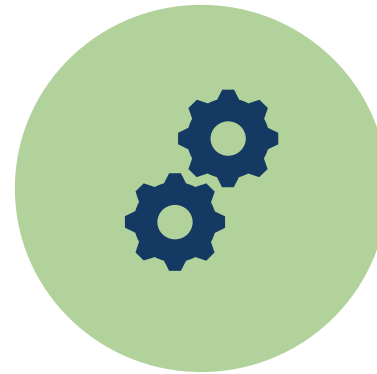
Alliance for Water Efficiency



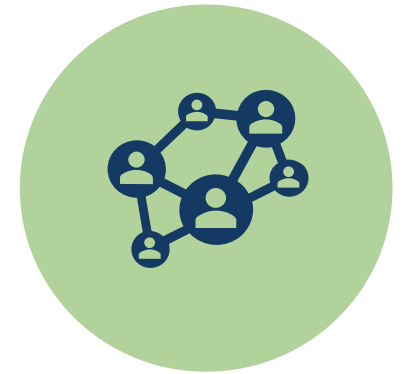
Policy Advocacy



Research



Programs



Events



POLICY ADVOCACY

Alliance for Water Efficiency

WATERSENSE

- **Good News!** Despite threats to gut or even eliminate WaterSense, it has survived. House & Senate Funding Bills include language supportive of FY 2026 and 27 WaterSense funding at EPA.
 - Some specifications under development have been paused
 - WaterSense moved into an office with the Water Reuse program
- AWE and partners have been advocating for WaterSense since the Trump Administration took office, including a letter of support signed by nearly 100 orgs



[AWE Fact Sheet on WaterSense Benefits](#)

ENERGYSTAR

- **More good news.** Congress rebuked the Trump Administration's threats to eliminate ENERGY STAR by continuing to fund it in the FY 2026 budget.
 - The ENERGY STAR label includes products such as clothes washers and dishwashers that are energy *and* water efficient.
- The Administration appears to have accepted that the program is here to stay and plans to move it from EPA the Department of Energy.



DEFENDING FEDERAL WATER EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Showerheads:

- May 2025, DOE changed the definition of showerhead to allow for multiple nozzles that each have flow rates up to 2.5 gpm (“Maintaining Acceptable Water Pressure in Showerheads”)
 - AWE believes the new, generic definition doesn’t actually allow for multi-nozzle showerheads; we may litigate if they enter the mainstream marketplace.
- SHOWER Act (H.R. 4593) passed the House; proponents claim it would change the federal standard to allow for multiple-nozzles at 2.5 gpm each.
 - AWE disagrees with that interpretation but we aren’t sharing that opinion to prevent the bill from being “fixed.”
 - Goal is to stop the bill in Senate.

Other Water-Using Devices

- President directs DOE (May 9, 2025) to
 - **Rollback water and energy efficiency standards** and to not enforce existing regulations in the interim (“Rescission of Useless Water Pressure Standards”)
 - Eliminate the ability of states to establish stronger standards (“preemption exemption”) – state AGs are engaged

COALITION COMMENTS TO DOE PROPOSED RULES

- AWE and Appliance Standards Awareness Project coordinated development of comments opposing the DOE proposed rules
- Signers included AWWA, AMWA, and NRDC.
- DOE has yet to respond or go final.
- AWE is prepared to file lawsuits.

Comments to DOE Proposed Rules

- [Residential Clothes Washers](#)
- [Commercial Clothes Washers](#)
- [Compact Clothes Washers](#)
- [Dishwashers](#)
- [Commercial Pre-rinse Spray Valves](#)
- [Faucets](#)
- [Automatic Commercial Ice Makers](#)

WATER CONSERVATION REBATE TAX PARITY ACT

(ELIMINATE FEDERAL TAXES ON WATER EFFICIENCY REBATES)



- Introduced in the House & Senate with bipartisan support
- AWE network brought key Congressional champions to the table
- Organized a national sign-on letter with 62 org signatories
- Strong national support: AWWA, AMWA, IA, IAPMO, NWRA, PMI
- Securing additional co-sponsors; attach to a 2026 tax bill

WATERSMART FUNDING

- The funding bill containing WaterSMART funding for FY26 was signed by the President on January 23 with significant reductions.
- The first new funding opportunity in over year was recently announced.

	FY25 CR	FY26
WaterSMART Grants	\$54M	\$15M
Basin Studies	\$15M	\$0
Cooperative Watershed Management Program	\$8M	\$6M
Drought Response and Comprehensive Drought Plans	\$30M	\$5M
Title XVI	\$30M	\$12.5M
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration Program	\$6.5M	\$500K



RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Alliance for Water Efficiency

RECENTLY COMPLETED RESEARCH



Advancing Sustainability Through Household Consumer Products: Guidance & Insights for Estimating & Communicating Water Savings



WRF 5265: Evaluating Changes in Peak Water Demand and How That May Affect the Choice, Design, Management, and Evaluation of Demand Management Strategies



Village of Phoenix and Village of Riverdale Water Affordability Analyses & Action Plans



Innovations in Water Conservation Best Practices prepared for the State of Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy
(publication pending)



Access AWE's latest research through our Resource Library!

ONGOING & NEW RESEARCH



Characterizing Water Use in Low-Income Households Requesting Bill Pay Assistance



Strategies for Integrating Water Reuse and Water Efficiency/Conservation to Maximize Benefits (*in active recruitment*)



WRF 5327: Utility Business Models for Managing Demand Reduction

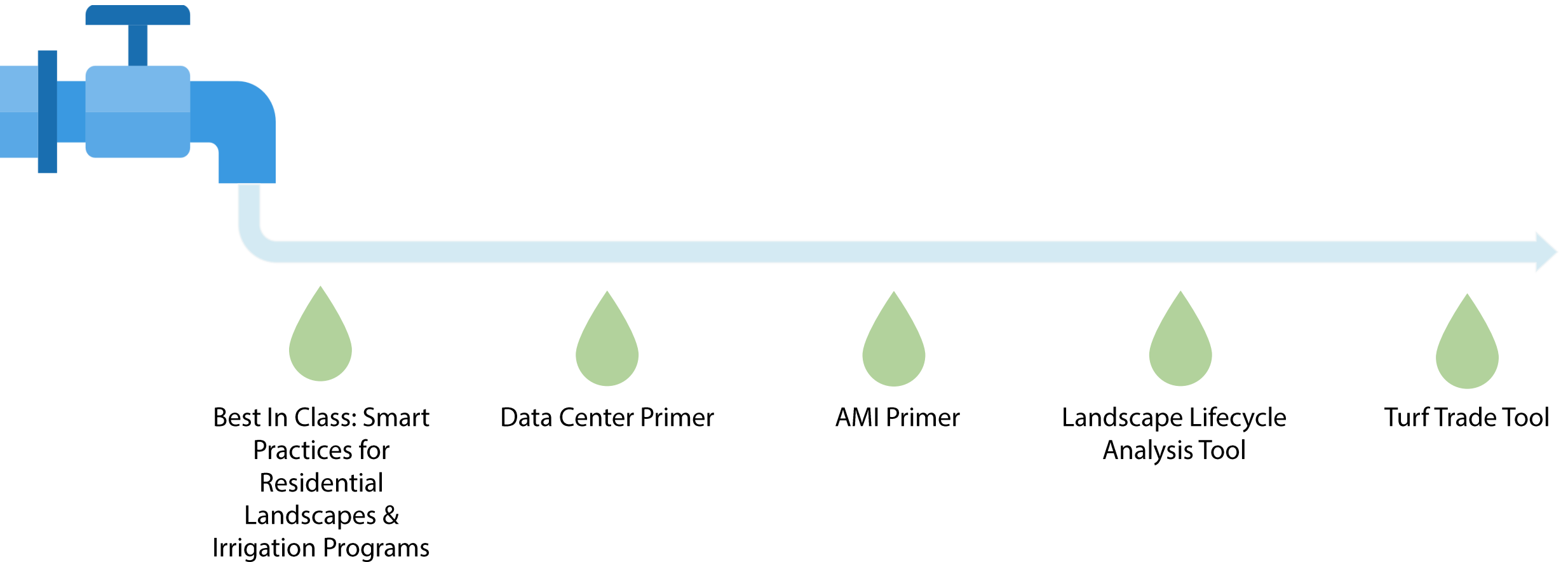


WRF 5335: Per Capita Water Use Calculation



Join AWE's [Water Efficiency Research Committee](#) to stay up to date with these projects.

SPRING 2026 PUBLICATION FLOW



BEST IN CLASS: SMART PRACTICES FOR RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPES & IRRIGATION PROGRAMS

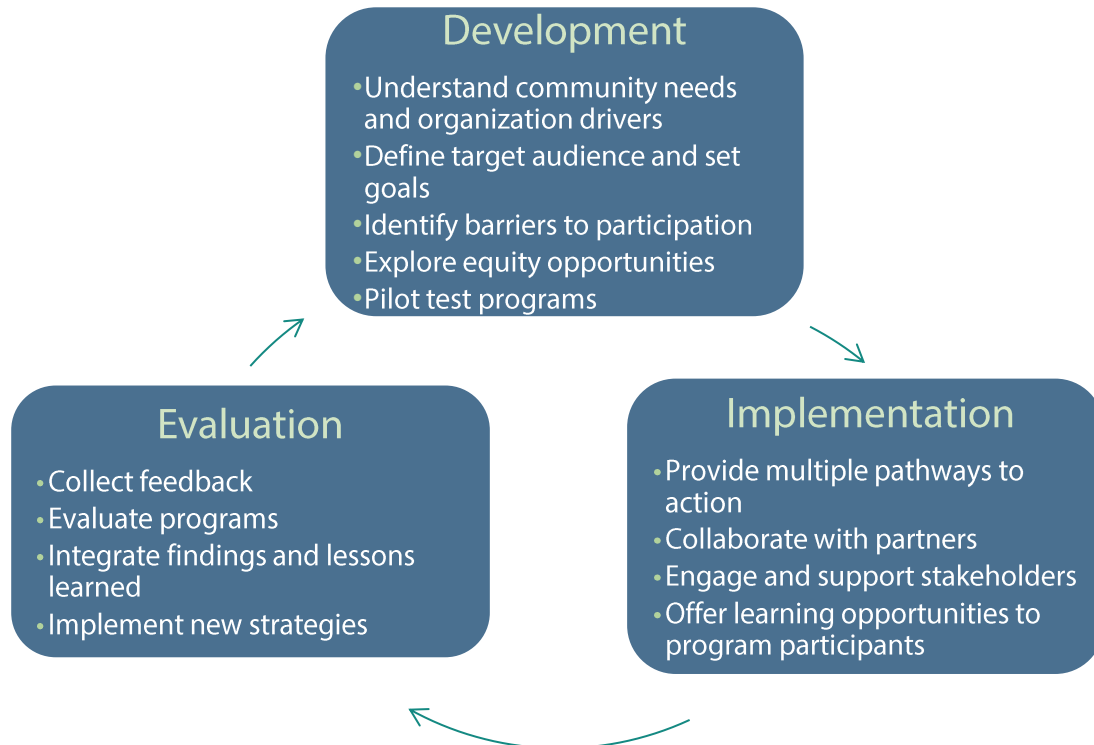


Coming April 2026



→ Provide step by step guidance on smart practices for administering outdoor water use efficiency programs

→ Each smart practice includes associated case examples from 32 utilities and organizations



DATA CENTER PRIMER



Coming May 2026

- The **Data Center Primer** will help water service providers understand
 - Data center types and functions
 - Cooling technologies
 - How much water is used
 - Community recommendations to ensure water is appropriately considered in data center development.
- Written for local water providers and water utility professionals



AMI PRIMER



Coming June 2026

- Provides guidance on applications of advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) for water conservation and efficiency across six core use cases:
 - High use detection & notification
 - Leak detection & notification
 - Demand & peak analysis
 - Customer portals
 - Irrigation during & near rain events
- Each chapter will provide a description of the use case, best practices and measures of success, considerations for implementation, and case examples
- Audience: water service providers and utilities looking to build and/or expand their AMI programs to advance WUE

Blua
Consulting LLC



LANDSCAPE LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS TOOL



Coming Late Spring 2026



Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping
UtahStateUniversity.

The **Landscape Life Cycle Analysis Tool** is an Excel-based model that calculates **financial cost, resource utilization, and hydrocarbon balance** associated with landscapes designs.

The tool enables a comprehensive landscape assessment that considers the tangible and intangible inputs and outputs of a landscape over its lifecycle.

LANDSCAPE COMPARISON			Landscape Comparisons	Landscape 1	Landscape 2
LIFE CYCLE ANALYSIS COST SUMMARY				Low Water Localscape	High Water Localscape
VIII.	LIFECYCLE ANALYSIS	VISUALIZATION	Low Water Localscape	High Water Localscape	
	Total lifecycle financial cost	(\$) <input type="checkbox"/> On	\$37,313	\$157,003	
	Total lifecycle water use	(1000 gallons) <input type="checkbox"/> On	1,477	5,554	
	Total lifecycle energy	(kW-hr) <input type="checkbox"/> On	0	0	
	Total lifecycle fertilizer use	(lbs N) <input type="checkbox"/> On	97	292	
	Total lifecycle pesticide use	(lbs) <input type="checkbox"/> On	5	58	
	Total lifecycle owner labor	(hrs) <input type="checkbox"/> On	3,586	6,786	
	Total lifecycle hired labor	(hrs) <input type="checkbox"/> On	0	0	
	Total lifecycle fuel	(gallons) <input type="checkbox"/> On	80	223	
	Total lifecycle particulate matter	(lbs) <input type="checkbox"/> On	0.6	1.5	
	Total lifecycle hydrocarbon output	(tons CO ₂) <input type="checkbox"/> On	-16.5	-30.1	

Landscape Life Cycle Analysis Tool Cost Summary

TURF TRADE TOOL



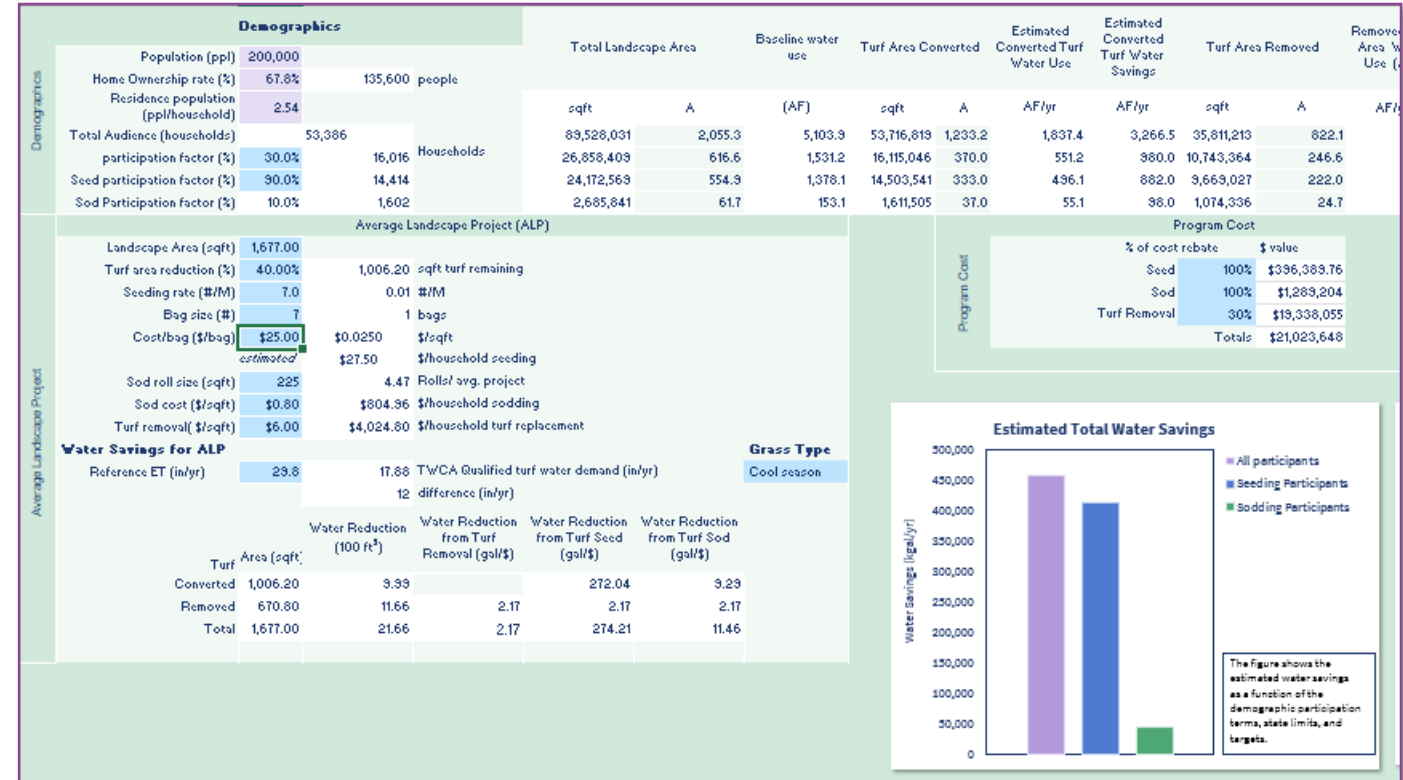
Coming Late Spring 2026



Center for Water-Efficient Landscaping
Utah State University.

The **Turf Trade Tool** is an Excel-based model that calculates the **water savings** and **conservation return on investment (ROI)** as a function of gallons of water saved per dollar spent on turf trade programs.

The tool is designed to support stakeholders in calculating the potential water savings and conservation ROI of a Turf Trade Program.

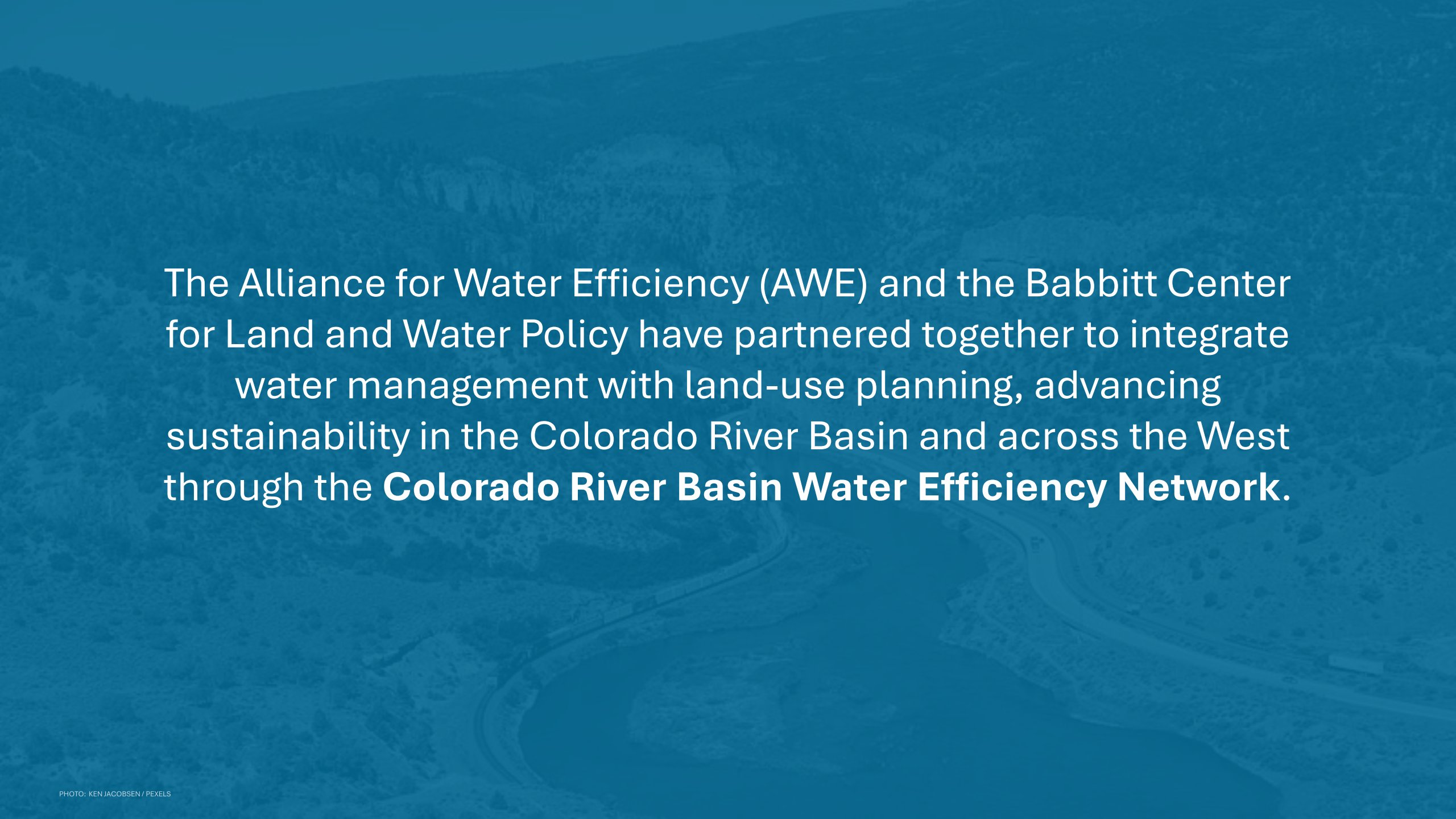


Turf Trade Tool Data Input & Visual



PROGRAMS

Alliance for Water Efficiency



The Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy have partnered together to integrate water management with land-use planning, advancing sustainability in the Colorado River Basin and across the West through the **Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network.**

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER EFFICIENCY NETWORK



- Goal is to connect water efficiency and land use practitioners to advance innovative strategies that reduce CRB municipal water use through peer-to-peer learning, training, and resource development.
- Builds from the CRB MOU signed in 2023 by 30 water providers; AWE convened that group to develop NFT programs
- Invitations have commenced; first online meeting late April
- At this time, open only to water and land practitioners

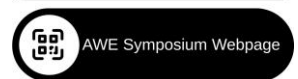


EVENTS

Alliance for Water Efficiency



For more information on registration, travel and lodging, and how to get involved visit <https://allianceforwaterefficiency.org/symposium/>





Symposium Schedule At-a-Glance August 4-6, 2026

Tuesday, August 4		
Morning	Field Trip	Separate Registration Fee
Afternoon	Workshop	Separate Registration Fee
Evening	Welcome Reception	Free to Attendees
Wednesday, August 5		
Full Day	General Symposium Sessions	Included with full Symposium registration
Evening	Restaurant Roundup	Pay on your own
Thursday, August 6		
Full Day	General Symposium Sessions	Included with full Symposium registration
Evening	Social Event — Ron Burke and the Wenonah Ryders play at the Island Tiki Hut	Free to attend; food and drinks available for purchase





THANK YOU!

Amanda Christophe, Program Manager

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