

New Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network Launches to Advance Regional Collaboration on Water Sustainability

Practitioner-led initiative connects water and land use practitioners from across the Colorado River Basin to strengthen practical water efficiency, resilience and long-term sustainability strategies.

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[Alliance for Water Efficiency](#) and the [Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy](#), a center of the [Lincoln Institute of Land Policy](#), today announced the launch of the Colorado River Basin Water Efficiency Network (CRB Network), a practitioner-led collaborative initiative focused on advancing water efficiency strategies and strengthening coordination between water management and land use planning across the Colorado River Basin.

“Large-scale reductions in water use are necessary to eliminate chronic over-allocation of CRB water and ensure affordable, sustainable water supplies”

The CRB Network recently held its kickoff meeting, bringing together an inaugural cohort of more than 40 participants representing water utilities, local governments, state agencies, and land use planning organizations from across the Basin committed to advancing long-term water resilience and sustainability.

The Colorado River Basin continues to face mounting pressures from drought, population growth, and climate change, all of which are straining water supplies and challenging the long-term sustainability of communities, economies, and ecosystems that depend on this shared resource. Many of these challenges are experienced most directly at the local and regional level, where communities are navigating increasingly complex decisions related to growth, infrastructure, water demand, drought preparedness, and long-term resilience.

The CRB Network creates a trusted space for water and land use practitioners to share operational experiences, implementation strategies, and practical approaches related to water efficiency and integrated land and water management across the Basin. The network is structured as a collaborative

COLORADO RIVER BASIN WATER EFFICIENCY NETWORK

forum for shared learned and problem solving—not a policy entity or venue for interstate water negotiations. Participants will exchange ideas, case studies, tools, and operational experiences to strengthen local and regional approaches to water efficiency and integrated land and water management.

“Large-scale reductions in water use are necessary to address chronic over-allocation in the Colorado River Basin and ensure affordable, sustainable water supplies,” said Ron Burke, President and CEO of Alliance for Water Efficiency. “Local water providers are already doing important work, and the CRB Network creates an opportunity for practitioners across sectors to learn from one another, share successful approaches, and strengthen implementation efforts throughout the Basin.”

The CRB Network emphasizes practical learning, cross-sector collaboration and the sharing of tools, data, and case studies to support effective water efficiency and integrated land and water management strategies. By creating a structured, ongoing forum for collaboration, the network aims to accelerate the adoption of proven approaches while fostering innovation to address emerging challenges.

The launch of the network builds on recent collaborative momentum among Colorado River Basin water providers to reduce demand and expand implementation strategies. In 2023, 30 water providers across Basin states signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) committing to expand non-functional turf replacement programs and pursue additional water-saving measures to improve long-term water sustainability.

To support those efforts, Alliance for Water Efficiency convened a series of collaborative meetings that enabled participating utilities to share best practices, align strategies, and make measurable progress toward their commitments. Strong interest in continued collaboration and peer exchange helped inform development of the broader CRB Network.

“The challenges facing the Colorado River Basin require coordinated, forward-looking action and sustained collaboration across disciplines,” said John Farner, Executive Director of the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy. “This network creates an opportunity for communities and practitioners to learn from one another, strengthen coordination between land use and water management, and advance practical solutions that support long-term water resilience and community sustainability across the Basin.”

The CRB Network will convene regularly through virtual meetings, an online collaboration platform, and additional peer learning opportunities designed to support implementation and ongoing knowledge-sharing across the region.



About Alliance for Water Efficiency

Alliance for Water Efficiency is a North American nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the efficient and sustainable use of water across North America. AWE advocates for water-efficient products and programs, develops cutting-edge research, and provides technical assistance to its diverse membership base.

About the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy

The Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy is a center at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy established in 2017 to advance the integration of land and water management in the Colorado River Basin and beyond. The center works to ensure that land use decisions support sustainable and resilient water outcomes. Through partnerships, research, and education, the Babbitt Center helps communities, policymakers, and planners align land and water planning to achieve integrated, multi-benefit outcomes.

