

## Water Forward 2018 FY22 Q2 Implementation Progress Report

### Water Forward 2024

The five-year update to the Water Forward 2018 Plan will include updated data, analyses, and community engagement activities. The final plan will include an updated 50-year portfolio of water management strategies and a 100-year adaptive management plan.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### FY22 Q2 Stats

N/A

#### FY22 Q2 Progress

Continued development of 2020 population estimates and began development of 100-year projections. Achieved substantial completion of Disaggregated Demand Model improvements. Continued climate and hydrology analysis. Updated mission statement and guiding principles.

#### Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities

Develop 100-year population and employment projections. Refine modeling scenarios for use in preliminary water supply needs analyses. Begin updating the characterization of Water Forward 2018 Water Management Strategies. Begin development of the Equity and Affordability Roadmap.

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY22: Begin community engagement, update methodology, demands, climate & hydrology analysis.  
FY23: Identify water needs, strategies, develop portfolios.

### My ATX Water

This program will replace more than 250,000 analog water meters with digitally read water meters connected to a wireless network. The My ATX Water program also includes a brand-new customer portal that provides up-to-date water usage metrics, leak alerts, emergency alerts, water conservation tips, and many other customizable features.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

Delayed; Aclara had difficulties hiring the right number of meter installers and retaining workers at the beginning of the project. Various freezes, boil water notices, and other issues also diminished their numbers.

#### FY22 Q2 Stats

~42,000 - # of meters installed  
~12,500 - # of customer portal registrations  
32% - Avg. customer portal registration rate  
~16,000 - # of continuous usage alerts

#### FY22 Q2 Progress

My ATX Water contracted vendor, Aclara, performed pre-install field surveys and continued meter installations around Austin, bringing the total number of installs to ~42,000. The My ATX Water customer portal has a 32% adoption rate, compared to other Watersmart clients' 25% average.

#### Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities

Meter surveys and installs continue around Austin, increasing in frequency as more installers are hired. A marketing push for more portal sign ups is also being planned.

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY23: Installation of 250,000 meters will continue.  
FY25: Anticipated project completion.

2040: 3,880 Acre Feet/Year

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2040: 3,040 Acre Feet/Year

### Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance

AW will create an Irrigation and Landscape Ordinance for new single-family residences that will set requirements for conserving water in irrigation systems and landscapes.

#### FY22 Q2 Progress

AW staff conducted online stakeholder meetings for internal, external, and public groups. A survey created by the ordinance team was posted on the SpeakUp Austin page and input was collected (173 responses in Q2). A meeting with the Irrigation Association of Austin was held on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities

A second public meeting will be given twice on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and May 5<sup>th</sup>. A second external stakeholder meeting will be given twice the last week of May. These meetings will focus on the input from the online survey and the feedback from the local Irrigation, Turf Grass, and Homebuilder Associations.

#### FY22 Q2 Stats

**3** - # of community engagement events  
**39** - # of meeting attendees  
**173** - # of survey responses

#### Future Implementation Steps

FY23: Planned completion and adoption of landscape transformation ordinance.

### OWRS, Benchmarking and Reclaimed Code Changes

This suite of code changes includes requirements that site plan submittals include water benchmarking applications, extends the current reclaimed connection requirements, and requires that new developments ≥250,000 square feet install onsite water reuse systems.

#### FY22 Q2 Progress

Began drafting mandatory OWRS rules and regulations and modeling impacts to development projects. Met with Housing and Planning to discuss approach for developing the Affordability Impact Statement.

#### Actual vs. planned progress

On Schedule

#### Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities

Working with internal COA stakeholders to ensure implementation of mandatory program is smooth across departments (working with Watershed Protection to develop dual crediting policies, developing billing and metering approach, working with Law on ordinance language).

#### FY22 Q2 Stats

N/A

#### Future Implementation Steps

Work towards Council adoption of Mandatory OWRS ordinance in December 2023. Plan for external stakeholder engagement. Update OWRS guidance materials to reflect mandatory program requirements.

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2040: 5,480 Acre Feet/Year	<p><b>Onsite Water Reuse Systems (OWRS)</b>                  In December 2020, the City of Austin adopted the Onsite Water Reuse Systems Ordinance to regulate the collection, treatment, and use of alternative water sources for non-potable uses in multi-family and commercial buildings. AW's new OWRS team implements these requirements and assists the development community with the benchmarking and OWRS application processes.</p>	<p><u>Actual vs. planned progress</u>                  On Schedule</p>	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Stats</u>  <b>35</b> - # of benchmarking applications received (this quarter)  <b>15</b> - # of benchmarking applications received for developments &gt;250,000 Square Feet (this quarter)  <b>2</b> - # of OWRS applications received (FYTD)  <b>2</b> - # of OWRS incentive applications received (FYTD)</p>
	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Progress</u>                  Staff has reviewed OWRS applications that have come in and fielded questions on several potential applications. Staff has reviewed water benchmarking applications for all site plans submitted after Dec. 1, 2021.</p>	<p><u>Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities</u>                  Staff is planning to have the OSCAR and CLARA pilot commissioned by May 1<sup>st</sup> and a public event to celebrate on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Staff is working towards improving the water benchmarking review process for accurate data collection for future budgeting strategies and benefit to the developer in terms of information gained.</p>	<p><u>Future Implementation Steps</u>                  Targeting to have pilot incentive funds applied to ~3-4 systems and approve ~5-6 OWRS throughout the voluntary phase. Once systems are approved, will begin to implement inspections and periodic reporting. Developing national OWRS operator certification program.</p>
2040: 3,560 AF/Year	<p><b>Decentralized Reclaimed</b>                  Decentralized reclaimed is the collection of effluent from the wastewater system in new development areas, treatment to non-drinking water quality at a small wastewater treatment plant, and reuse at the community scale via a decentralized reclaimed water distribution system that would be separate from the centralized reclaimed water system.</p>	<p><u>Actual vs. planned progress</u>                  On Schedule</p>	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Stats</u>  <b>3</b> - # of decentralized reclaimed water customers  <b>34.04</b> - Decentralized reclaimed water use (MG)</p>
	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Progress</u>                  AW prepared draft Decentralized Reclaimed Area Plans for North and South Fork Basin and is currently working on the draft area plan for Elm and Decker Creek Basins. AW has also created a draft Decentralized Reclaimed Planning Areas map containing expected service areas and other relevant decision-making information for anticipated Decentralized Reclaimed facilities, which is under internal review.</p>	<p><u>Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities</u>                  AW will continue developing infrastructure plans related to decentralized reclaimed for small area planning polygons.</p>	<p><u>Future Implementation Steps</u>                  FY22: Staff will continue development of Decentralized Reclaimed planning products and will begin updating analysis in preparation of Water Forward 2024 Plan Update.</p>

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2040: 15,480 Acre Feet/Year	<p><b>Centralized Reclaimed</b></p> <p>Austin Water provides highly treated wastewater through the centralized reclaimed water system for non-potable uses such as irrigation, cooling, manufacturing, and toilet flushing. The Water Forward plan includes expansion of the existing reclaimed water system to meet non-potable demands.</p>	<p><u>Actual vs. planned progress</u></p> <p>Delayed; The completion of the Core Loop Mains has been delayed in order to avoid conflicts with Project Connect's Orange Line.</p>	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Stats</u></p> <p>~180 - # of centralized reclaimed water customers                  232 - Centralized reclaimed water use in Q2 (MG)                  501 - Centralized reclaimed water use YTD (MG)</p>
	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Progress</u></p> <p>Design is ongoing for the final Completing the Core mains. Advertised and opened bids for Onion Creek Phase 1 Main. Chlorinator start up at Montopolis Pump Station. Provided water quality data/samples to Tesla and NXP Semiconductor. Finalized Resource Infrastructure Plan.</p>	<p><u>Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities</u></p> <p>Continue design of the final Completing the Core mains. Advertise the Oltorf Phase 1 Main. Brief Water Forward Task Force on the Centralized Reclaimed System.</p>	<p><u>Future Implementation Steps</u></p> <p>FY22: Start design of SAR and Montopolis Pump Station Upgrades.                  FY26: Estimated completion of all Completing the Core mains in FY26.</p>
2040: 60,000 Acre Feet/Year	<p><b>Aquifer Storage and Recovery</b></p> <p>Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR) is a water supply strategy to store available water in a natural aquifer during wet times for later recovery and use. An ASR project will make Austin's water supply more resilient to the effects of climate change and drought and could provide a second source of water during emergencies, like freeze events or flooding.</p>	<p><u>Actual vs. planned progress</u></p> <p>On Schedule</p>	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Stats</u></p> <p>3 - # of community engagement events                  157 - # of meeting attendees</p>
	<p><u>FY22 Q2 Progress</u></p> <p>Finalized high-level storage zone screening; continued work on detailed storage zone analysis. Finalized integration point analysis. Conducted community workshops to share info about ASR and get input on equity and affordability concerns. Continued work on community engagement planning and materials.</p>	<p><u>Current/Planned FY22 Q3 Activities</u></p> <p>Finalize detailed storage zone analysis and begin developing project alternatives. Prepare for and begin widespread community engagement efforts, informed by the equity and affordability roadmap, to gather community input on criteria and weightings for project evaluation.</p>	<p><u>Future Implementation Steps</u></p> <p>FY22-23: Initial contract and identify where to pilot.                  FY24-27: Design, construct, and test ASR pilot. Develop recommendations for full-scale ASR.                  FY28-35: Preliminary engineering, design, construction of full scale ASR.</p>