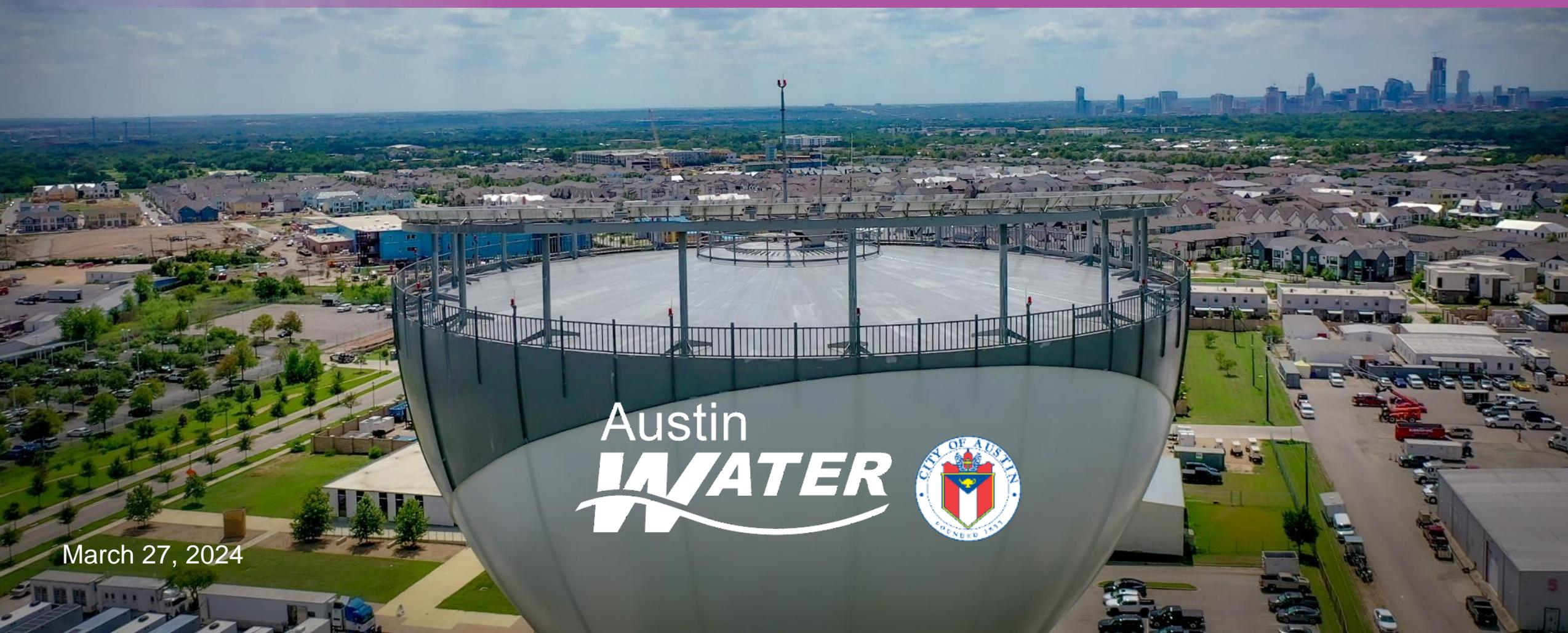


GoPurple Webinar

Onsite Water Reuse and Reclaimed Water



Austin
WATER



March 27, 2024

Webinar Guidelines

- Webinar will be recorded
- Type questions in the Q&A box
 - Questions will be read aloud and answered by staff at the end of the presentation
- You can upvote questions that are asked
- A recording of the webinar will be posted to the Austin Water webpage



Presenters



Rebecca Batchelder,
P.E.
Engineer



Katherine Jashinski,
P.E.
Supervising Engineer



Agenda

- 💧 **GoPurple Overview**
- 💧 **Reuse Strategies**
- 💧 **Addressing Affordability**
- 💧 **Water Balance Calculator**
- 💧 **Q&A Session**



Wastewater that leaves homes and businesses is treated at our facilities and afterwards can be **recycled and reused for many purposes.**

By 2040 onsite water reuse will **save an estimated 6 million gallons** of potable water per day. Expanding reclaimed will **save 10 million gallons per day.**

GoPurple provides affordability strategies that enable new development projects to **enhance water sustainability for our community.**

It will be funded by a combination of fees and rates that will **provide up to \$10 million yearly.**

Go Purple

[Go Purple | AustinTexas.gov](https://www.austintexas.gov/GoPurple)

Austin City Council Adoption on March 7th

- Code Changes for Onsite Water Reuse and Reclaimed Water Connections
- Affordability Strategies for Reuse Projects
- New community Benefit Charge increase (\$0.15 per thousand gallons) to fund Reclaimed Water System expansion and Onsite Reuse programs



Water Forward 2018

- Developed by Austin Water with the Council-appointed Water Forward Task Force and community input
- Technical work supported by engineering, climate science, and hydrology consultants
- Approved by Council in November 2018

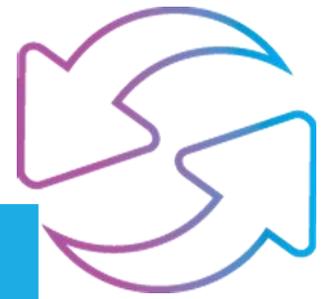
Water Forward 2018 Water Management Strategies



A close-up photograph of purple industrial machinery, possibly a conveyor belt system, with several bolts visible. A semi-transparent blue banner is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the text "GoPurple Reuse Strategies" in white. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the machinery.

GoPurple Reuse Strategies

Development Requirements



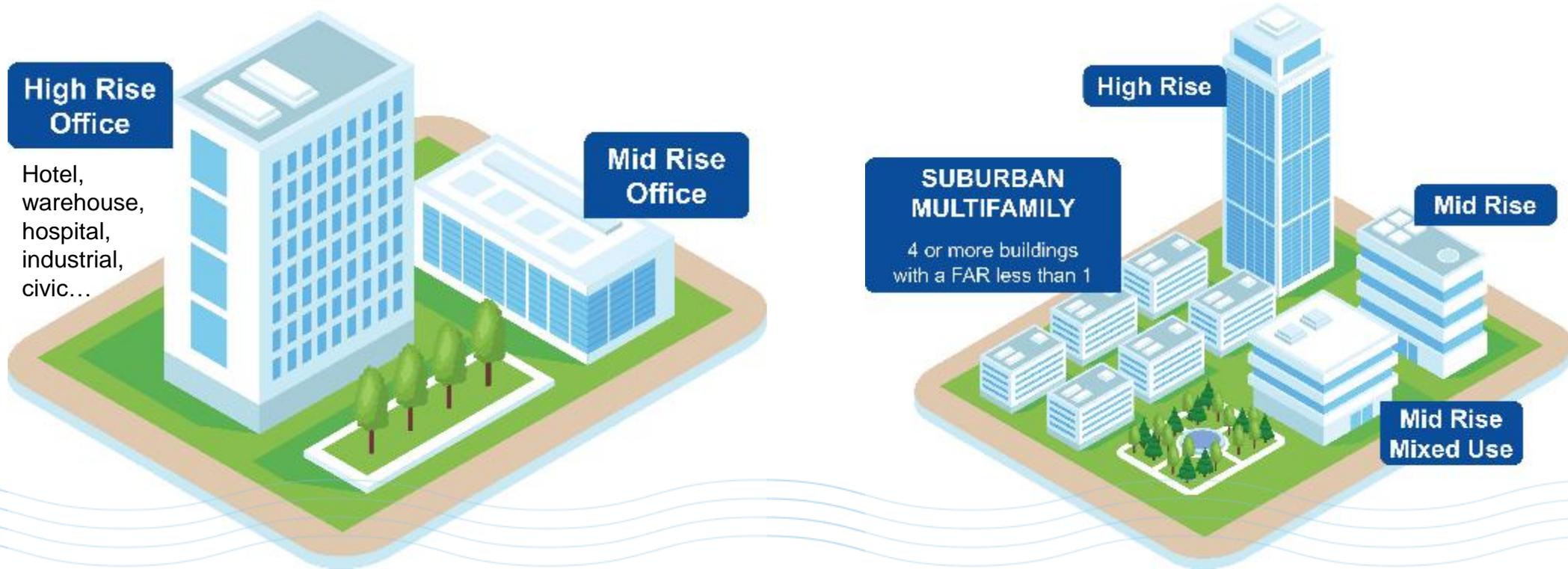
Development Size	Current Requirements Effective 12/1/2021	Proposed Requirements Effective 4/1/2024
Small <250,000 square feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Benchmarking Connect to centralized reclaimed water within 250 feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change
Large ≥250,000 square feet <u>without multifamily</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Benchmarking Connect to centralized reclaimed water within 500 feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to centralized reclaimed water within 500 feet; OR If >500 feet, install an onsite water reuse system
Large ≥250,000 square feet <u>with multifamily</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Benchmarking Connect to centralized reclaimed water within 250 feet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Connect to centralized reclaimed water within 500 feet; OR If >500 feet, install an onsite water reuse system; OR If >500 feet, dual plumb buildings + pay fee in lieu to fund reclaimed CIP

Deeply affordable housing projects (50% onsite affordable units) are exempt from these requirements



What is a Large Development Project?

LARGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECT means the construction of one or more multi-family, mixed use, or commercial buildings on one or more parcels in accordance with a phased plan or approved site plan, with a total gross floor area for the building(s) of 250,000 square feet or more.



Clarifying Definitions in City Code Section 25-9-411:

COMMERCIAL BUILDING means a building that is developed for industry, commerce, trade, recreation, business, or municipal, institutional, or civic use.

MIXED USE BUILDING means a building developed for any combination of commercial and multi-family building uses.

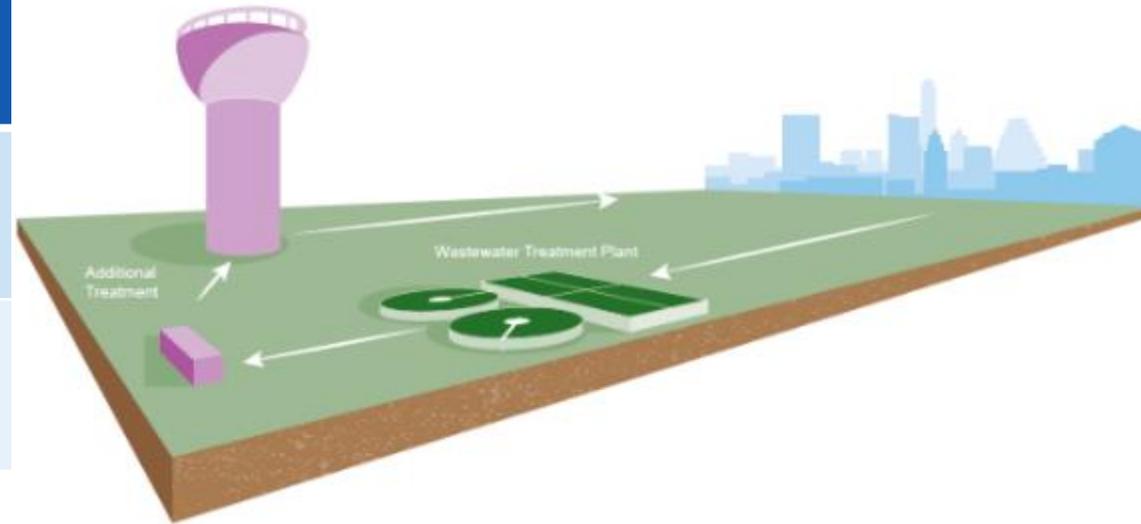
MULTI-FAMILY BUILDING means a building that contains five or more residential housing units.



Reclaimed Water Requirements

Project Size	Mandatory Connection Distance	Required End Uses
Less than 250,000 sf GFA	250 feet	Irrigation Toilet/Urinal Cooling
250,000 sf or greater GFA	500 feet	Irrigation Toilet/Urinal Cooling

GFA = Gross Floor Area



- Distance between property boundary and reclaimed main is measured horizontally along the closest practicable access route
- Variances allowed for financial hardship (small project only), or for public health and safety uses (e.g. toilet flushing in healthcare facilities)

OWRS Requirements in Ch. 15-13

Project Size	Other Project Characteristics	Required Sources	Required End Uses
250,000 sf or greater of GFA	Project has one or more commercial, multifamily or mixed use buildings	Combined AC condensate and Rainwater	Irrigation Toilet/urinal Cooling tower
	Exception: project has four or more multifamily buildings with a FAR <1	Combined AC condensate and Rainwater	Irrigation
Less than 250,000 sf of GFA	Project has a cooling tower of 100 tons or greater capacity	AC condensate	Cooling tower

GFA = Gross Floor Area FAR = Floor to Area Ratio

- Requires a cistern to capture the volume 1" x project roof areas
- Reclaimed water or another onsite water source may be substituted



Payment of Fee in Lieu of an Onsite Water Reuse System

Austin Water may approve projects to pay a fee in lieu if the project meets the following criteria:

- ◆ contains a multifamily building;
- ◆ is more than 500 feet from the City's reclaimed water system;
- ◆ the project site plan shows separate dedicated meters and distribution plumbing to all required non-potable fixtures within the project; and
- ◆ the project site plan and building plans show the site has adequate physical separation, backflow prevention, etc. between potable and non-potable water systems.

The general method for calculating the onsite water reuse system fee in lieu is as follows:

Pipe Diameter (in inches) x Cost per inch-foot (per the City's fee schedule) x 500 Linear Feet



Current Fees in Lieu of an Onsite Water Reuse System

Pipe Diameter (in inches)	Cost per inch-foot	Linear Feet	Fee in Lieu of Onsite Water Reuse System
6	X \$40.16	X 500	=\$120,480.00
8	X \$40.16	X 500	=\$160,640.00
12	X \$40.16	X 500	=\$240,960.00

The fees will be updated annually based on new costs of construction for reclaimed mains.



Exempt Housing Projects

A qualifying development is not required to have an onsite water reuse system or connect to the reclaimed water system when the development is participating in a city, state, or federal program that requires:

- ◆ a minimum of fifty percent on-site income-restricted dwelling units for 60% or lower median family income for rental units; or
- ◆ a minimum of fifty percent on-site income-restricted dwelling units for 80% or lower median family income for ownership units.

These projects must be certified as meeting the above criteria by the City's Housing Department in order to obtain Site Plan Application approval.



A close-up photograph of industrial machinery, possibly a large metal pipe or valve, with several bolts visible. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue horizontal band across the middle. The text "Affordability Strategies" is written in white, bold, sans-serif font within this band.

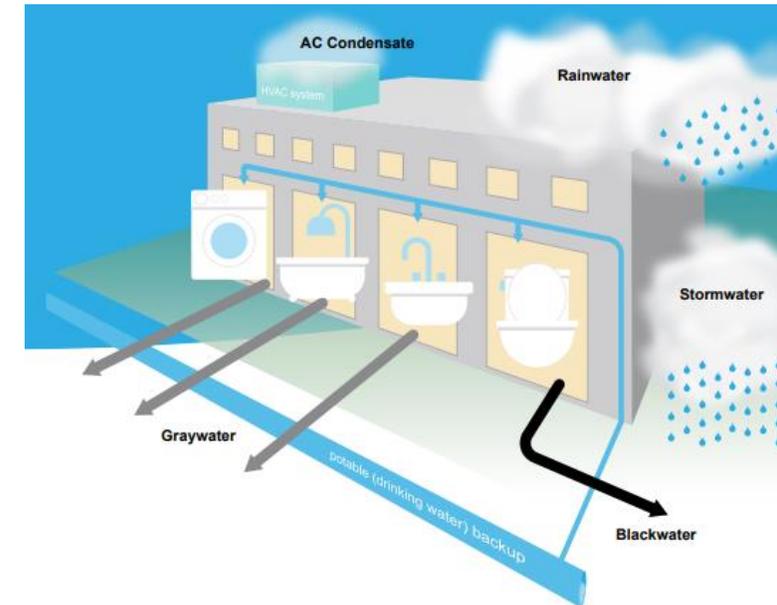
Affordability Strategies

Addressing Affordability

Advancing Reuse

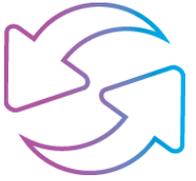


- ◆ Incentives for reuse and conservation
- ◆ Reduced monthly fixed charges
- ◆ Expedited building plan reviews
- ◆ Cost sharing
- ◆ Travis County PACE Loan Program



Connections Incentives

Development Type	Distance to Centralized Reclaimed System	Cost Sharing	AW Funded Expedited Building Permit Review	Assistance with PACE Program
Incentive Amount		Up to \$500,000 per project	Up to \$36,000 per project	Up to cost of energy/ water efficiency project
Small (Less than 250,000 square feet)	Less than 250 Feet	Developer Pays 100% of first 250 Feet	No	Yes
	251-500 Feet	AW Pays 100% of 251-500 Feet	Yes	Yes
	More Than 500 Feet	AW evaluates projects case-by-case and brings customer-specific agreements to City Council	Yes	Yes
Large (≥250,000 square feet)	Less than 250 Feet	Developer Pays 100% of first 250 Feet	No	Yes
	251-500 Feet	AW Pays 50% of 251-500 Feet	Yes	Yes
	More Than 500 Feet	AW evaluates projects case-by-case and brings customer-specific agreements to City Council	Yes	Yes



GO PURPLE Incentives for developments connecting to Centralized Reclaimed System



Development Type	Distance to Centralized Reclaimed System	Cost Sharing	AW Funded Expedited Building Permit Review	Assistance with PACE Program
Incentive Amount		Up to \$500,000 per project	Up to \$36,000 per project	Up to cost of energy/ water efficiency project
Large (≥250,000 square feet) with multifamily-- Qualified exempt affordable housing project	Less than 250 Feet	AW Pays 100% of first 250 Feet	Yes	Yes
	251-500 Feet	AW Pays 100% of 251-500 Feet	Yes	Yes
	More Than 500 Feet	AW evaluates projects case-by-case and brings customer-specific agreements to City Council	Yes	Yes



OWRS Incentives

Development Type	Pilot Incentives Eligibility	Eligibility for Capacity Charge Adjustments	AW Funded Expedited Building Permit Review	Assistance with PACE Program
Incentive Amount	Up to \$500,000 per project	Up to \$7,528 per year per project	Up to \$36,000 per project	Up to cost of energy/ water efficiency project
Small (Less than 250,000)	Yes, for Voluntary OWRS	Yes, for OWRS that Pass Annual Inspections	Yes	Yes
Large (≥250,000 square feet) without multifamily component	Yes, if meets program criteria for Above and Beyond Project	Yes, for OWRS that Pass Annual Inspections	Yes	Yes

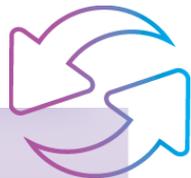


GO PURPLE Incentives for developments implementing Onsite Water Reuse Systems (OWRS)



Development Type	Pilot Incentives Eligibility	Eligibility for Capacity Charge Adjustments	AW Funded Expedited Building Permit Review	Assistance with PACE Program
Incentive Amount	Up to \$500,000 per project	Up to \$7,528 per year per project	Up to \$36,000 per project	Up to cost of energy/ water efficiency project
Large (≥250,000 square feet) with multifamily-- Qualified exempt affordable housing project	Yes, for Voluntary OWRS	Yes, for OWRS that Pass Annual Inspections	Yes	Yes





GO PURPLE Incentives for developments that **Dual Plumb buildings, make ready to connect to Centralized Reclaimed, and pay fee* in lieu of OWRS**

Development Type	Pilot Incentives Eligibility for OWRS	Eligibility for Capacity Charge Adjustments for OWRS	Cost Sharing for Reclaimed Connections	AW Funded Expedited Building Permit Review	Assistance with PACE Program
Incentive Amount	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Up to \$36,000 per project	Up to cost of energy/ water efficiency project
Large (≥250,000 square feet) with multifamily component	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	No	Yes

*fee will be equivalent to the cost to install 500 feet of reclaimed pipeline

Incentive Administration



Requires Pre-Approval, Program Agreement, and Proof of Payment for Disbursement of Funds

- 💧 Cost sharing for reclaimed main extensions
- 💧 Pilot incentive for onsite water reuse

Requires Proof of Payment for Disbursement of Funds

- 💧 Expedited building plan reviews

Automatic Savings

- 💧 Capacity charge adjustments on meters

Dedicated AW Staff Resources

- 💧 Travis County PACE Loan Program

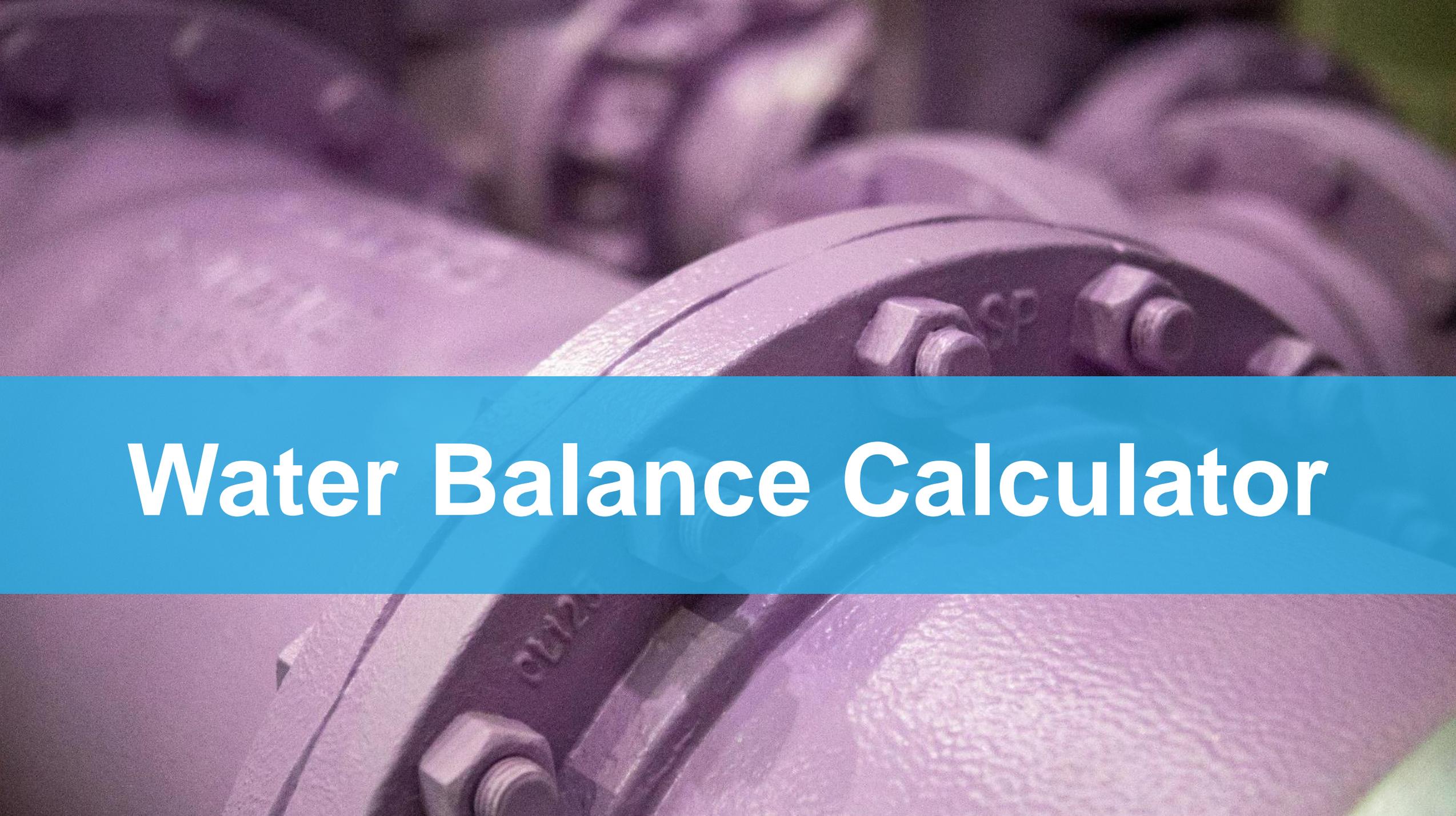
Resource Webpages for GoPurple Advancing Reuse



- <https://www.austintexas.gov/page/go-purple> – general info page for GoPurple program
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/obtaining-reclaimed-water-service> –info page for complying with the reclaimed connection requirements and applying for incentives
- <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/onsite-water-reuse-systems> –info page for complying with the onsite water reuse system requirements and applying for incentives



Pages include recorded webinars for completing permitting steps

A close-up photograph of industrial water treatment equipment, featuring large circular components and bolts. A semi-transparent blue horizontal band is overlaid across the center of the image, containing the text 'Water Balance Calculator' in white. The background is slightly blurred, emphasizing the mechanical details of the equipment.

Water Balance Calculator



Questions?

Austin
WATER

