Environmental Mission

Environmental Mission Statement

Actively promote the long term, sustainable development and wise use of water, energy and other resources under the stewardship of the Metropolitan Water District through conserving water and energy, protecting water quality and the watershed and assuring regulatory and environmental compliance. All actions will take into consideration the relevant goals and activities of the member cities, associated districts, and the state.

On an annual basis, Metro Water will provide an update on efforts to support the objectives of the Environmental Mission Statement. Overall, Metro Water continues to be very active in supporting these objectives. The following is an explanation of these efforts in 2025.

Water and Energy Conservation:

Support water conservation and best management practices for energy and water conservation

1) Support our member cities' implementation of effective water conservation measures
   a) Participate in the Utah State University water audits program
      - Metro Water continued to support the Utah State University (USU) Water Audits program during 2025.
      - The annual contract amount for 2025 water checks and analysis is $116,000.
   b) Support member cities' conservation programs
      - Support of member cities' conservation programs was through the USU Water Audits program and participation Utah Water Ways.
   c) Participation in Utah Water Ways
      - Metro Water is a member of Utah Water Ways (UWW). Eric Sorensen is the Metro Water representative on UWW's Slow the Flow Committee.
      - The current annual cost for Metro Water to participate in the UWW as a funding member is $36,400.
   d) Implement Metro Water's water conservation plan
      - Metro Water's Water Conservation Plan was adopted in December 2005 and the plan was updated in December 2010. Recommended updates to the plan were considered in 2015 but have not been finalized. Metro Water is not required to have a water conservation plan unless it is applying for grant funds that would require a conservation plan. In 2024, Metro Water applied for and received a loan from the Department of Water Resources. To be eligible, Metro Water updated its conservation plan which was approved, after a public hearing, by Resolution 1931 in February 2024.
   e) Provide annual Utah Lake System reporting
      - Since 2000, Metro Water has tracked per capita water use which documents conservation performance by Metro Water and its member cities. This information is used to track Metro Water's progress in meeting the ULS conservation goals of a 12.5% water use reduction by 2020 and a 25% water use reduction by 2050. Additionally, Metro Water's progress is tracked relative to the State's regional conservation goal of 187 gallons per capita per day by 2030. When every region reaches its goal, a 16% water use reduction will be realized. Metro

Water's 2024 gallons per capita per day use was 183 which is below the state conservation goal. Metro Water completed its annual conservation report and submitted it to Central Utah Water Conservancy District in March.

2) Implement effective supply-side conservation measures

- Bowen Collins & Associates completed a comprehensive water supply and demand study in June 2025 using data from the most recent supply and demand studies completed by Salt Lake City and Sandy City. The study includes recommendations for optimizing use of the water supply.

3) Plan and participate in Aquifer Storage and Recovery efforts

- Consistent with the Metro Water's Fiscal and Budget policy, when revenue is available, contributions are made to the Managed Aquifer Recharge ("MAR") Reserve fund.
- The Managed Aquifer Recharge Design and Construction capacity improvement project is in progress. Metro Water's 2021 Managed Aquifer Recharge (MAR) Implementation Plan includes a six-phase approach to storing up to 8,790 ac-ft of water annually in the ground. Metro Water successfully obtained funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to construct portions of the first two project phases (pilot and Phase 1) which include surface infiltration basins and an aquifer injection well. Construction work was completed in November 2025. Long-term pilot testing is being conducted on the new facilities to determine feasibility of the program according to state rules.

4) Adopt best management practices for energy and water conservation at all Metro Water lands, properties, and facilities

a) Implement Metro Water's Energy Management Plan

- Consistent with recommendations from the Emergency Management Plan, Metro Water created an Energy Management Team. The team includes staff from Engineering, Maintenance, IA&E, and Operations. The team meets quarterly to evaluate and consider the development of renewable energy sources, such as solar, either as independent capital improvement projects, or in conjunction with the implementation of other capital improvement projects.

b) Evaluate other energy and water conservation BMPs

- Metro Water will continue to improve energy conservation through proactive operational/maintenance changes and through replacing failing equipment with energy efficient options.
- Metro Water is eligible to receive funding from Rocky Mountain Power for proactive projects that improve energy conservation.

5) Promote public education regarding water conservation

a) Participate in public outreach through events such as Water Week

- Water Week activities were held on May 8, 2025. Tours of the LCWTP continue yearly for smaller groups including educational groups from Elementary to College age.
- Tours of Metro Water facilities were provided to Councilmember Alejandro Puy of Salt Lake City, the Sandy City council, and Congressman Mike Kennedy.

Water Quality Protection

Support Metro Water's vision to provide clean drinking water to our customers

1) Monitor and respond to harmful algal blooms in source water reservoirs

   - Metro Water's Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB) and Cyanotoxin Response Plan, last updated in February 2024, continues to direct efforts to prevent HABs through source protection endeavors, to monitor for HABs through a cooperative effort with the Provo River Watershed Council and to respond to reports of HABs when they occur.

2) Monitor and respond to aquatic invasive species such as quagga mussel

   - Metro Water continues to monitor aquatic invasive species, especially quagga mussels. As a part of this effort, Metro Water provides funding for the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program through the PRWC.

3) Monitor and respond to the introduction of new water supplies in Metro Water conveyance and distribution systems

   - Metro Water has coordinated quarterly meetings with Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and Salt Lake City Public Utilities to discuss potential water quality issues or concerns with deliveries through the Jordan Aqueduct facilities to 21st South. The most recent meeting was held on November 14, 2025.

4) Monitor and respond to introduction of PFASs (perfluoroalkyl substances)

   - In October 2019, Metro Water began conducting quarterly testing for PFASs (perfluoroalkyl substances) in Little Cottonwood Creek. Metro Water conducted PFAS monitoring in 2021 and 2022 as part of a project led by the Division of Drinking Water. Metro Water currently conducts quarterly testing for PFAS substances in treated water in anticipation of EPAs National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for six PFASs substances. To date there have been no detections of regulated PFASs substances in the treated water.

Watershed Planning and Protection Program

Support Metro Water's value to be long-term stewards of water, infrastructure, and the environment

1) Implement and maintain Metro Water's source water protection plans

   - Metro Water maintains source water protection plans for the following water sources: Provo River, Little Cottonwood Creek, Southeast Mountain Streams, Battle Creek, and Grove Creek.
   - Metro Water has coordinated efforts with Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District on the Provo River source water protection plan. Every six years the source water protection plans are reviewed. These plans are currently being updated and will be submitted to the Division of Drinking Water for approval prior to December 31, 2025.

2) Participate in watershed planning programs and efforts to protect the watershed

   a) Support Provo River Watershed Council

      - Metro Water is a member of the Provo River Watershed Council (PRWC). Eric Sorensen is Metro Water's representative on this council.
      - The current annual cost for Metro Water to participate in the PRWC as a funding member is $110,000.

   b) Support Central Wasatch Commission (formerly Mountain Accord) efforts

- Metro Water continues to support the Central Wasatch Commission (CWC) efforts. The projects the commission supports can be found at *https://cwc.utah.gov*
- In 2022, Annalee was elected as an ex-officio board member of the CWC and represents Metro Water on the board. The annual contribution is $15,000.

c) Monitor and respond to legislative threats to watershed protection

- Metro Water staff continues to monitor potential legislation that relates to protection of drinking water sources. Staff and Metro Water's lobbyist track these bills and attend meetings as needed.
- Metro Water has representation at the Utah Water Task Force (UWTF) monthly meeting. UWTF has provided input on water banking, watershed councils, watershed protection, water conservation, water rights, and other water-related legislation.

d) Monitor and respond to developments in the watershed

- Metro Water monitors development in the watershed areas through participation in the Provo River Watershed Council. The council contracts with Barr Engineering to review development in unincorporated Wasatch County and conduct routine observations of storm water collection systems for the purpose of protecting surface water quality. The council also coordinates with the Utah Division of Water Quality to monitor storm water concerns in the area.

e) Consider monitoring other watershed areas that have a potential impact on Metro Water source water supplies

- Provo River Watershed Council utilizes SWCA Environmental Consultants to provide engineering services for Provo River Watershed Water Quality Analysis. SWCA updated the interactive Provo River Watershed website in June 2025 (*PRWC Experience Builder*). This report provides recommendations for additional monitoring and other activities needed to protect water supplies.

f) Consider and understand the implications of climate change to Metro Water and its customers

- Metro Water engaged Bowen Collins & Associates to complete a comprehensive water supply and demand study, which included an analysis of climate change implications. This study was completed in June 2025 and was based on similar efforts completed by Salt Lake City and Sandy City.

Regulatory Compliance

Recommend practices and programs that ensure regulatory compliance with the Division of Drinking Water and EPA

1) Monitor and respond to changes in water quality regulatory compliance requirements that may impact water treatment processes as well as practices of the Metro Water's certified lab

a) Metro Water completed Sanitary Survey

- The IPS rule (Improvement Priority System) is an approach to evaluating and rating water systems. Ratings are in accordance with the Rule R309-400 – Water System Rating Criteria. The three possible ratings are: Approved, Correction Action (system deficiencies are in the process of being corrected), and Not Approved (significant deficiencies exist).
- Metro Water's water system was evaluated on June 20, 2023. A copy of the survey is available if board members are interested. The current rating is "Approved" and we received a 0 point score, the best score available. The next survey will be conducted in 2026.

Environmental Compliance

Recommend action to the Board regarding environmental compliance

1) Participate in NEPA compliance reviews as needed

- Metro Water has participated in two UDOT Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) processes. The Parley's Interchange EIS (near Terminal Reservoir) has been completed. Metro Water provided comments in coordination with Salt Lake City and Sandy on the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS.
- In July 12, 2023, UDOT released the Little Cottonwood Canyon EIS Record of Decision for transportation improvements. UDOT selected Gondola Alternative B with phased implementation of components of the Enhanced Bus Service Alternative. Staff provided comments throughout the EIS process.
- Staff provided comments on the Wasatch Front Regional Council draft 2023 Regional Transportation Plan. The 2026 draft plan is being reviewed by staff.
- Metro Water, along with the Provo River Watershed Council, is monitoring the EIS for a proposed by bypass road through the Heber Valley. A Draft EIS will be published for review in January 2026.