

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Water Conservation

Collaborative efforts of northern Colorado water providers



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INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL, AND INSTITUTIONAL WATER BENCHMARKS SUPPORT WATER CONSERVATION EFFORTS ACROSS COLORADO

With the support of a grant from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment's Pollution Prevention Advisory Board (PPAB) and technical facilitation provided by The Brendle Group, a task force of northern Colorado water providers aimed to increase ICI water conservation through a regional partnership that would develop useful benchmarks to guide ICI water users. The goals of the task force included gathering water use data, analyzing and normalizing these data for priority sectors, and publishing related benchmarks to inform conservation policy and decision making related to water budgeting and allocation.

The task force compiled and analyzed data from 302 restaurants, 184 schools, 97 hotel/motels, and 48 nursing/assisted living facilities, which are four priority ICI sectors in the region. On the basis of these data, benchmarks are now available for each of these sectors (water.brendlegroup.com):

Annual Benchmarks

95% confidence interval for annual water consumption

- Restaurants: 0.17-0.21 thousand gallons (kgal)/square foot; 10.6-14.3 kgal/seat
- Schools: 0.012-0.019 kgal/square foot; 1.7-2.7 kgal/student
- Hotel/motels: 0.079-0.165 kgal/square foot; 30.2-39.5 kgal/room
- Nursing homes/assisted living: 0.062-0.101 kgal/square foot; 32.8-40.7 kgal/bed; 25.4-39.6 kgal/apartment

As a result of the task force efforts, ICI water users are now able to compare their own consumption to these benchmarks and make more informed conservation decisions. In addition, having these benchmarks available also will inform water providers in developing conservation programs and water budgeting.

Participants hope to identify opportunities to coordinate ongoing benchmarking efforts with other efforts nationwide. The potential outcome of these efforts might be a robust, standardized water benchmark database that would provide relevant data for providers and consumers in many regions and industries.

Task force participants include:

- Aurora Water
- City of Boulder
- City of Fort Collins
- City of Thornton
- Colorado Springs Utilities
- Colorado State University

- City of Greeley
- City of Loveland
- City of Westminster
- Denver Water
- Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District

The task force was facilitated by The Brendle Group, Inc., an engineering consulting firm dedicated to helping clients convert their environmental programs from an operating expense to a business asset through a customized mix of strategic planning, engineering assessment, implementation, measurement, and education.