

# LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR WATER MANAGEMENT IN ARIZONA

Strategies for resilient communities



## OVERVIEW

### THE POWER OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

There is a common misperception in Arizona that counties, cities, and towns have little to no authority to manage local water resources. However, local jurisdictions already possess a broad set of authorities for water resource management. Communities across Arizona are addressing water resources and supply issues through actions made possible by their local planning authorities.

This summary provides an overview of some of the most effective land use planning strategies communities can use to exercise local authority for a more holistic and sustainable approach to water management.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Arizona towns, cities, and counties may enact relevant laws unless preempted by state law. Preemption can occur when state law overrides local authority in the same policy area. However, this issue does not apply in most cases. Preemption concerns are fairly narrow in the context of existing state-level water management programs, especially outside of active management areas (AMAs). See the additional resources on page 4 for more information.**

*The information provided in this summary is for general informational purposes only. This information does not, and is not intended to, constitute legal advice. Readers of this document should contact their attorney to obtain advice with respect to how any particular matter or policy discussed in this summary, the memorandum, or the Growing Water Smart Guidebook may relate to a particular town, city, or county.*

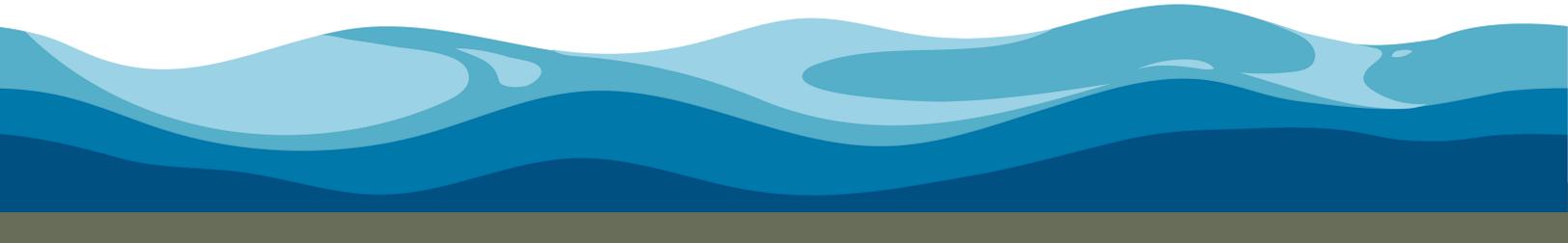
# OPPORTUNITIES TO INTEGRATE WATER AND LAND USE PLANNING



These land use tools are within the authorities of local governments and can further a community's water resource management goals.

<p><b>Visioning &amp; Planning</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Visioning</li> <li>• Information Sharing &amp; Alignment</li> <li>• Public Engagement &amp; Education</li> <li>• Regional Partnerships</li> <li>• Comprehensive &amp; General Plans</li> <li>• Community Water System Plans</li> <li>• Local &amp; Regional Water Quality Plans</li> <li>• Capital Improvement Plans</li> <li>• Hazard Mitigation, Response, &amp; Recovery Plans</li> <li>• One Water Plans</li> </ul>
<p><b>Ensuring Water Supply for Development</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Arizona Water Supply Rules</li> <li>• Water Budgeting</li> <li>• Water Allocation Policies</li> <li>• Water Demand Offset Programs</li> <li>• Annexation Policies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Land Use Policy &amp; Process</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compact Development</li> <li>• Water Efficient Landscapes</li> <li>• Water Smart Buildings</li> <li>• Development Review</li> </ul>
<p><b>Watershed Health &amp; Alternative Supplies</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Watershed Protection</li> <li>• Green Infrastructure &amp; Low Impact Development</li> <li>• Alternative Water Supplies</li> </ul>
<p><b>Efficient Water Demand Programs</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conservation Rate Structuring</li> <li>• Conservation Rebate Programs</li> <li>• Water Metering, Audits, &amp; Leak Detection</li> <li>• Consumer Educational Messaging</li> </ul>

Adapted from *Arizona Growing Water Smart Guidebook*, Table 1: Opportunities for Integrated Water and Land Use. In-depth information on these tools, including case studies, are provided in this guidebook.



# TOOLS FOR EACH PHASE OF LAND USE PLANNING

Strategies to integrate water conservation, efficiency, and reuse into land use planning occur from the visioning and policymaking stages to construction and beyond.

Phase

01

## Planning and Policy Making

**Goal:** Establish goals and objectives linking water and land use

**Example tools:** General and Comprehensive Plans, Capital Improvement Plans

Phase

02

## During Development Review

**Goal 1:** Link new development to water supply plans

**Example tools:** Adequate Water Supply Standards

**Goal 2:** Determine water conservation and efficiency requirements for site design

**Example tools:** Zoning and subdivision regulations

Phase

03

## At Building Construction

**Goal:** Determine water conservation and efficiency requirements for buildings

**Example tools:** Building and plumbing codes

Phase

04

## Post-Construction

**Goal:** Incentivize property owners and renters to reduce water consumption

**Example tools:** Rate structuring and water conservation programs





## RESILIENT WATER MANAGEMENT

### EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

Arizona towns, cities, and counties have the power and tools to shape the future of water management within their communities. By leveraging these local authorities at every stage of the planning and development process, local governments can build a more resilient water future.

## LEARN MORE

### MORE RESOURCES ABOUT LOCAL AUTHORITIES FOR INTEGRATED WATER AND LAND USE PLANNING

For more on local authority and interventions:



- [Arizona Growing Water Smart Guidebook](https://sonoraninstitute.org/resource/arizona-gws-guidebook/) - <https://sonoraninstitute.org/resource/arizona-gws-guidebook/>
- [Guidebook Appendices](https://resilientwest.org/2022/az-appendices/) - <https://resilientwest.org/2022/az-appendices/>
- [Local Authority to Integrate Water & Land Use Planning in Arizona](https://sonoraninstitute.org/resource/local-authority-memo/) - <https://sonoraninstitute.org/resource/local-authority-memo/>



For more regional water planning data:

- [Arizona Department of Water Resources Water Atlas](https://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-19396) - <https://infoshare.azwater.gov/docushare/dsweb/View/Collection-19396>



*This informational handout was prepared by Southwest Decision Resources. Materials were modified from the "Arizona Growing Water Smart Guidebook," written by the Sonoran Institute, and the 2022 report "Local Authority To Integrate Water & Land Use Planning In Arizona," written by Culp & Kelly, LLP for the Sonoran Institute and the Babbitt Center for Land and Water Policy, a Center of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.*