



Criteria for becoming a Waterwise Council

The Waterwise Council Program is free to join and is open to all councils within Western Australia. To be endorsed as a Waterwise Council, a council must fulfil the selection criteria:

Criteria 1. Achieve milestones 1 to 3 of the ICLEI Water Campaign™ (community or corporate modules) OR if a council is not participating in the Water Campaign™ equivalent criteria are applicable.

- Milestone 1: Complete an inventory of water consumption and a water quality practices gap analysis.*
- Milestone 2: Set goals to improve water management.*
- Milestone 3: Develop a local action plan that defines the strategic direction and the actions council will take to achieve the goals.*

As part of completing milestones 1-3 you will need to:

- 1.1 Nominate an employee/position as a point of contact for water related issues.
- 1.2 Review council water consumption
 - Identify the top ten water using buildings and grounds owned by the council.
 - Conduct a water audit on at least one of the top ten water using sites (to the standard provided in the Waterwise Council Program 's Waterwise Auditing Training course).
 - Commit to implement 50% of recommendations from the water audit plan.
 - Include the water auditing of the remaining nine sites in the council's action plan.
- 1.3 Complete an action plan that outlines actions to improve water management within the council's own operations (corporate) and improve water efficiency in the residential and non-residential sectors (community).

The following actions must be included in the action plan:

Corporate:

- 1. Develop a purchasing policy which incorporates waterwise products and services or amend existing purchasing procedures to incorporate waterwise products and services.
- 2. Promote the use of waterwise vegetation and irrigation within council properties, verges, public open space, etc.
 - a. Where possible retrofit with waterwise vegetation and irrigation, incorporate hydrozoning techniques and introduce amended soils as part of councils' Maintenance and Capital Program. These programs should form part of councils' Works Program.





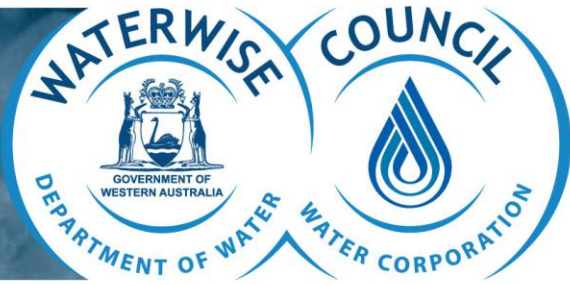
3. Develop a Local Planning Policy for Public Open Space (POS) and water sensitive urban design in new land developments that supports:
 - a. Increased use of storm water and non-potable water supplies as irrigation alternatives to reduce irrigation by scheme water.
 - b. Land developer participation in the Water Corporation's Waterwise Land Development and Waterwise Display Village programs.
 - c. Incorporating a checklist into the building approval process for checking water efficiency when assessing building plan submissions.
4. Encourage council aquatic centre/s to participate in the Waterwise Aquatic Centre Program.
5. Encourage council golf course/s to participate in the Waterwise Golf Course Program - an initiative between Golf Course Superintendents Association of Western Australia, Department of Water and Irrigation Australia Limited.

Please refer to the land planning policy supporting document for an outline of issues to consider.

Community:

1. Develop a waterwise verge policy and provide information to residents on how to design and maintain a waterwise verge.
 2. Interact with household and business ratepayers to promote water efficiency via: newsletters, rate notices, waterwise workshops, website and water focused community engagement activity.
 3. Encourage local community and business to participate in or utilise other Waterwise Programs for example: Waterwise Schools, Waterwise Garden Centres, Waterwise Garden Irrigators, Waterwise Landscapers and Waterwise Lawnmowing Contractors etc.
 4. Encourage local schools to participate in the Waterwise Schools Program.
 5. Include water efficiency as a standing agenda item on relevant ratepayers' advisory committee or on an appropriate community group meeting.
 6. Develop a policy that supports the installation of greywater systems and rainwater tanks where appropriate.
- 1.4 Report progress
- Demonstrate substantial progress towards council having implemented actions from their corporate and/or community local action plan.
 - Include reporting on water efficiency targets and performance in the council's annual report.





Criteria 2. Ensure that appropriate staff members attend a FREE Waterwise training course.

Free online training is provided for:

- Waterwise Auditing – a session on understanding the auditing process, what is required and why, and the terminology frequently used. It also covers the basics on how to conduct an audit and determine water savings and then how to develop a recommendation plan. This session is recommended for building maintenance staff and administrators in this area.
- Waterwise Gardening and Irrigation – a session on effective gardening techniques, waterwise concepts including plant selection, soil preparation, mulching, irrigation considerations, etc. This session is recommended for grounds keepers, parks and maintenance staff, customer service staff and administration staff.

The above Waterwise training is available online with a comprehensive reference manual and materials provided. The online training can take between 2 – 4 hours to complete and can be accessed and completed in more than one sitting.

A basic assessment is requested at the end of each session. Attendees are required to achieve a pass mark of 80% to pass and receive a participation certificate.

Please note that all new staff that are employed during the council's participation in the program are required to complete training as appropriate.

The following additional training options are also available and can be used as evidence in order to achieve criteria 2.

Irrigation Efficiency Course (IEC) – Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL)

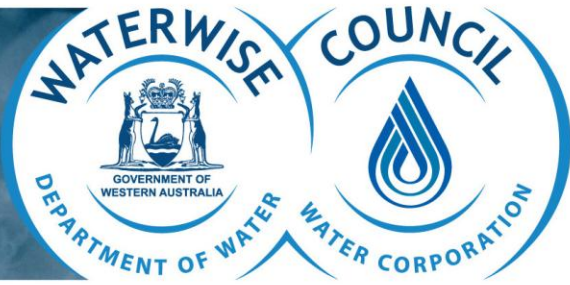
This two day practical and hands on course covers the following: gathering irrigation water-use data; testing landscape sprinkler system uniformity; compiling water records; basic irrigation scheduling; determining irrigation water requirements; basic system troubleshooting; developing system maintenance strategies; checking pressure and flow rates; conducting a sprinkler precipitation and distribution test; collecting data to determine irrigation uniformity and efficiency; assessing of soil texture and root zone depths.

Competencies linked to the course above:

- AHCIRG306A** – Troubleshoot irrigation systems
- AHCIRG303A** – Measure irrigation delivery system performance
- AHCIRG305A** – Operate pressurised irrigation systems

For more information contact Tracy Martin on 9474 9089 or tracy.martin@irrigation.org.au





Certified Irrigation Designer (CID) – Irrigation Australia Limited (IAL)

This Certification Program is an industry-owned and managed recognition scheme designed to improve and recognise the skills and knowledge of those professionals working in the irrigation industry.

The benefits of engaging a CID ensures you are dealing with a professional who has a minimum of three years irrigation related experience/education; has demonstrated they have the irrigation design knowledge by successfully passing a series of written examinations covering a wide range of irrigation subjects and specialty areas; has agreed to follow a Code of Conduct and has committed to ongoing professional development to retain their Certification status.

When producing contract documentation for a landscape development which includes a requirement for irrigation design, consideration should be given to engage a certified irrigation design professional.

To view the current list of CIDs or for further information to become a CID, visit www.irrigation.org.au and search Certification.

Criteria 3. Review the irrigation practices on council grounds and public open space including:

- 3.1 Demonstrate that irrigation systems using scheme water are operating effectively and efficiently.
- 3.2 Submit a water conservation plan to the Department of Water where required.

All metropolitan local governments have completed a plan as of December 2008 and some priority country councils have completed plans as of December 2009. These plans are valid for 18 months. After this time, an updated plan or reporting template will be required.

Some country councils may not be required to complete a plan, for example those using recycled water to irrigate their public open space/s.

Please contact the Department of Water at efficiency@water.wa.gov.au to determine whether you are required to complete a plan and/or the water conservation reporting template.

A water conservation plan requires a local government to consider:

- current water use and irrigated areas
- usage within licensed allocation
- hydro-zoning and eco-zoning of parks
- irrigation system performance and scheduling practices
- turf maintenance practices which assist water efficiency
- landscape design guidelines and alternative water sources.





Criteria 4. No breaches of water licence terms or conditions, including the 9am-6pm daytime sprinkler ban, set by the Department of Water in the past 12 months.

The Department of Water will verify there have been no breaches as part of the assessment process.

Criteria 5. No breach notices for scheme water usage issued by the Water Corporation to council in the past 12 months.

The Water Corporation will verify there have been no breaches as part of the assessment process, confirming that:

- Councils using scheme water to irrigate are complying with the relevant regional watering day rosters and the daytime sprinkler bans.

Retaining the Waterwise Council endorsement

1 Continue to progress through the ICLEI Water Campaign™ milestones until completed OR if a council is not participating in the Water Campaign™ equivalent criteria are applicable.

Milestone 4: implement the local action plan, report on the actions implemented and quantify the benefits of these actions. Councils must demonstrate that they have achieved 20% of the goals set at Milestone 2.

Milestone 5: monitor and report on water consumption reductions, water quality improvements, water management initiatives and progress towards council's goals.

Demonstrate that council has:

Implemented a further two actions from their corporate and/or community local action plan per annum.

- Continued to audit the remaining top water using sites in the council's action plan.
- Continued the implementation of 50% of recommendations from the previous water audits.
- Ensured any new, relevant staff members have undertaken Waterwise training.

2 Reporting

- Continue reporting on water efficiency targets and performance e.g. in the council's annual report.
- Quantify water savings (including both groundwater and scheme water) since joining the Waterwise Council Program .

3 Continue implementing the Department of Water's water conservation plan.

These plans may form part of a council's operating strategy. Reporting on implementation of water conservation plan actions should be included in the annual report.





4. Have not experienced any breaches of water licence terms or conditions, as set by the Department of Water, in the past 12 months.

The Department of Water will verify there have been no breaches as part of the re-endorsement process.

5. Have not received any infringements for scheme water usage issued by the Water Corporation to council in the past 12 months.

The Water Corporation will verify there have been no infringements issued as part of the re-endorsement process.

Evidence to demonstrate the criteria above will be requested by a Waterwise Council Program coordinator on an annual basis to ensure that the high level of standard for the Waterwise Council Program is maintained. Should a council fail to meet the above criteria, the Water Corporation and Department of Water may remove the council's Waterwise Council endorsement status.

If Waterwise Council endorsement is withdrawn this automatically removes the council's right to use the program logo and any promotional material.

