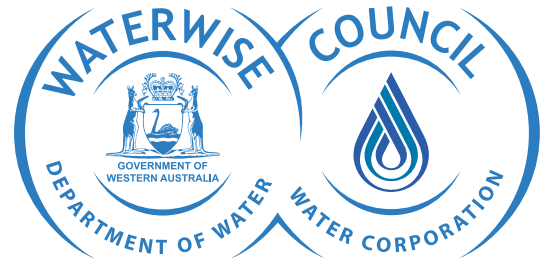


# Waterwise Council Program



## What is the Waterwise Council Program?

The Water Corporation and the Department of Water launched the Waterwise Council Program in 2009 to build a cooperative working relationship with local governments to improve water use efficiency in local government and their communities.

## What are the benefits of becoming a Waterwise Council?

- A better understanding of water use in council operations and the community,
- Potential water and financial savings through improved efficiency,
- Access to free waterwise training for staff,
- Access to waterwise materials to promote water conservation to the community,
- Access to Waterwise Council branding to promote the council as a sustainable water manager,
- Opportunities to participate in funded and co-funded water efficiency initiatives,
- Access to services such as data logging.

## How to become 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 following four steps:

### Criteria 1 – Council commitment

- 1.1 Council to sign a Memorandum of Understanding confirming the council's commitment to participate in the Waterwise Council Program.

- 1.2 Nominate an employee position as a point of contact for the Program and establish a water management team. The water management team is not required to be a formal body but is intended to identify staff working on water management activities across council operations.

### Criteria 2 – Review council water consumption and create a water efficiency action plan for potable and non-potable water sources for all council operations and the community.

- 2.1 Review council's water consumption over the last 3 years and identify the top water using buildings and grounds owned by the council.
  - Council scheme water and community water use reports are available upon request from the Water Corporation. Contact [water.efficiency@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:water.efficiency@watercorporation.com.au)
  - Information on groundwater use available from Department of Water. Contact [efficiency@water.wa.gov.au](mailto:efficiency@water.wa.gov.au)
- 2.2 Set goals to improve water efficiency. For example:

*Council aims to achieve a 5 per cent reduction in water consumption within the town site (per capita population) based on 2013/14 consumption data by the year 2017 and to ensure no net increase in consumption of the same period, based on current developments within the Town.*
- 2.3 Establish a water efficiency action plan that outlines current and future actions to meet water efficiency goals. Action plans to be endorsed by council.



### Criteria 3 - Ensure that appropriate staff members complete free waterwise training

All relevant staff must complete each training module as appropriate. This includes all new staff employed during the Council's participation in the Program.

- Waterwise Auditing – provides an understanding of the water auditing process. This session is appropriate for staff responsible for building and facility management.
- Waterwise Gardening and Irrigation – provides an understanding of best practice waterwise garden and irrigation principles and practices. This session is appropriate for grounds keepers, parks and maintenance staff as well as customer service and administration staff.

### Criteria 4 - No breaches of groundwater licence terms or conditions set by the Department of Water, and no breaches of scheme water usage issued by Water Corporation in the past 12 months. This includes permanent water efficiency measures.

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

Once the above criteria have been met a council will be eligible to be endorsed as Waterwise.

## Retaining Waterwise Council endorsement

### Criteria 5 - Report annually to retain Waterwise Council endorsement

- 5.1 Quantify actions to demonstrate progress towards goals in water efficiency action plan.
- 5.2 No breaches of water licence terms or conditions or breaches of scheme water usage in the past 12 months. The Department of Water and Water Corporation will verify there have been no breaches as part of the re-endorsement process.

Should a council fail to meet the above criteria, the Department of Water and Water Corporation may remove the council's right to use the program logo and promotional material.

## Recognition

The Waterwise Council Program recognition scheme provides additional recognition for endorsed councils that have achieved significant progress towards best practice water efficiency in council operations and the community.

There are two levels of recognition with winners to be announced at the annual Waterwise Council forum.

### Gold Waterwise Council Recognition

To attain this level of recognition a council must provide evidence of significant progress towards, or achievement of, a further five actions per annum, above and beyond those required for endorsement. A list of actions is included in the Water Efficiency Action Plan template for consideration.

### Waterwise Council of the Year (Platinum Waterwise Council)

A Waterwise Council of the Year will be announced annually at the Waterwise Council Forum.

Platinum recognition is awarded to a council demonstrating innovation and best practice techniques to improve water efficiency in facilities and in public open space.

In order to be eligible for this award a council must be an endorsed (or eligible for) Gold Waterwise Council and address the following as part of the annual re-endorsement process:

- How your council has contributed towards the efficient and sustainable use of water, focussing on the past year.
- An estimate of the total volume of water your council was responsible for saving each year (from baseline year).
- Evidence of work undertaken in the community or in council operations to reduce water use over the last year.
- Evidence of work undertaken that could be employed by other councils to reduce water use.

For more information on the Waterwise Council Program and how your council can participate, please contact us at [water.efficiency@watercorporation.com.au](mailto:water.efficiency@watercorporation.com.au) or [efficiency@water.wa.gov.au](mailto:efficiency@water.wa.gov.au)