

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability
Purpose and Goals

Purpose: To advance water sustainability statewide by increasing reuse, recycling, and conservation to protect Arizona's water supplies and natural environment while supporting continued economic development and to do so in an effective, efficient and equitable manner.

Goals: The Panel will provide recommendations to the Executive on statute, rule, and policy changes that, by the year 2020 in Arizona, will significantly:

1. Increase the volume of reclaimed water reused for beneficial purposes in place of raw or potable water.
2. Advance water conservation, increase the efficiency of water use by existing users, and increase the use of recycled water for beneficial purposes in place of raw or potable water.
3. Reduce the amount of energy needed to produce, deliver, treat, and reclaim and recycle water by the municipal, industrial, and agricultural sectors.
4. Reduce the amount of water required to produce and provide energy by Arizona power generators.
5. Increase public awareness and acceptance of reclaimed and recycled water uses and the need to work toward water sustainability

While acknowledging that substantial progress already has been made with respect to some of the goals, the Panel, for each goal, will define the meaning of "significantly," preferably by proposing achievable but ambitious numeric targets that will represent further, truly substantial advancements on the path to water sustainability by the end of this decade.

For the purposes of these goals, the following meaning apply:

Reclaimed water: wastewater from a sewage treatment plant treated to a quality suitable for beneficial purposes.

Recycled water: water from other sources that is used more than once for beneficial purposes (can include wastewater that has been recharged, process water, stormwater, gray water, desalinated water, and other waters not captured by a sewage treatment plant).

Beneficial purposes: Use of reclaimed or recycled water for agricultural, landscape, parks, golf courses, and turf irrigation; industrial cooling and processes; aquifer recharge; surface water augmentation; recreation; maintenance of wetlands and wildlife areas; and similar purposes.