

Blue Ribbon Panel on Water Sustainability Purpose and Goals

Purpose: To promote and advance statewide sustainability of water by increasing the reuse, recycling, and conservation of water in the State of Arizona in an effective (protective and results-oriented), efficient (cost effective, economical) and equitable (affordable, fair) 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, 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.

*While acknowledging that substantial steps forward already have been made with respect to some of these 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 terms are proposed:

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; environmental; and similar purposes.