

Working Groups

The following five working groups are tasked to develop water sustainability recommendations. Working group chairpersons (appointed by the Executive) will each name a co-chair, set working group meetings, facilitate discussion of issues and development of recommendations, and report back on progress at regular Panel meetings. Co-chairs do not necessarily have to be panel members. Panel members and other interested members of the public may participate on the working groups. The Blue Ribbon Panel website (<http://www.azwater.gov/AzDWR/waterManagement/BlueRibbonPanel.htm>) will maintain a listing of upcoming working group meetings, locations, and times. The agencies will assign staff to coordinate with chairpersons.

1. Public perception/Acceptance – make recommendations for enhancing public acceptance of the use of reclaimed and recycled waters through public education, outreach, and other strategies.

- development of a common terminology
- strategy for continuing education and outreach on reclaimed and recycled waters
- strategy for education and outreach for unregulated, emerging contaminants

2. Regulations and Permitting – identify regulatory impediments and make recommendations to streamline the reuse of reclaimed water

- revisions to BADCT for sewage treatment plants
- changes to reclaimed water quality standards and associated monitoring, and additions to the allowable end uses list
- changes to ADEQ and ADWR permitting processes
- gray water recommendations

3. Infrastructure/Retrofit – recommend measures that will facilitate the design, construction, operation and maintenance of new and retrofitted reclaimed and recycled water systems. (This working group is proposed separately from the Regulations and Permitting working group because of the subject matter’s complex, technical nature.)

- development of reclaimed water distribution system standards (i.e., a uniform code of technical standards for design, operation, and maintenance of “purple pipe” systems in Arizona)

4. Water conservation/Recycling/Efficiency/Energy Nexus – make recommendations regarding statutes, rules, policies, and strategies for increasing water conservation in the agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors; increasing the recycling of water that is not considered reclaimed water; and reducing the water cost of energy and the energy cost of water.

- conservation and efficiency increases in the agricultural, industrial, and municipal sectors
- recommendations for stormwater and other waters not considered reclaimed water
- energy-water recommendations

5. Economic/Funding – make recommendations on incentives, approaches to funding, and other mechanisms that will accelerate the reuse of reclaimed and recycled waters.

- non-financial policy and regulatory changes that will serve to incentivize
- financial mechanisms (tax, rebate, and rate policy)
- other mechanisms