

WHY DOES WELO MATTER?



WELO sets minimum standards for creating water-conserving, climate-resilient landscapes.

California's population is projected to increase by 20% from 2010 to 2040. More people means more demand for water.

The Bay Area currently uses 104 gallons of water per capita per day (GPCD). Urban water use is 20% less in the Bay Area compared to the state average. But we still use more than comparable regions in other parts of the world. Australia averages 90 GPCD and Israel averages 65 GPCD.

Reducing demand remains one of our biggest water supply opportunities.

In California, 8.6% of water is used on the landscape. In urban areas, the greatest potential for new water savings is long-term reductions in landscape irrigation. This means moving toward a landscape better adjusted to California's summer-dry climates.

California's water supplies are threatened by the climate crisis.

- Temperatures are predicted to rise and droughts will become more severe and frequent.
- The snowpack will continue to decrease. Seventy percent of Bay Area water supply currently comes from snowpack. By the end of this century, climate scientists predict California will have zero snowpack.
- Salt water intrusion from sea level rise is expected to affect ground water and recycled water supplies in the Bay Area.

Learn more about the impacts of climate change in California: climateassessment.ca.gov.

IT'S THE LAW!

Some California cities have been sued because of lax enforcement of the state's Water Efficient Landscape Ordinance.

WELO is not going away. It is now tied to CAL Green, the state's green building code. And the Department of Water Resources is putting greater emphasis on enforcement.

Landscapes can contribute to water savings and climate change resiliency.

The WELO water budget encourages plants adapted to lower water use.

WELO compost and mulch requirements:

- Increase water infiltration in the soil
- Increase soil water holding capacity by 30%
- Naturally improve plant and soil food web health
- Break down pollutants in the soil
- Reduce stormwater runoff by 70 to 80%

Compost also provides long-term sequestration of carbon in the soil.

Learn more about enforcing and implementing WELO:

stopwaste.org/WELO

