



**COLORADO WATER**  
INNOVATION CLUSTER



# Net Zero Water Planning Template

Creating a path to net zero water

Guidelines for identifying water quantity and quality impacts and creating a roadmap to water neutrality.

## VISION

To make Colorado the center for thought leadership in “net zero” water planning for sustainability, providing visibility for the state and showcasing the capabilities of the Colorado Water Innovation Cluster (CWIC).

## WHY IS A NET ZERO WATER PLANNING TEMPLATE NEEDED?

From risk management to environmental responsibility, many organizations have identified water management as an important issue to tackle. The frameworks and analytical tools for water planning, however, are less developed than those for other sustainability-related topics, such as energy and climate change. We are proposing an initiative that would fill this gap with a Net Zero Water Planning Template that will build off of net zero energy and climate neutrality innovation and translate these concepts into water management.

## WHAT IS THE NET ZERO WATER PLANNING TEMPLATE?

From water quality trading credits to net zero water districts and smart grid for water, this template will create the next logical extension

into net zero water planning. The template will include guidelines for identifying the water quantity and quality impacts within a defined boundary and tools for analyzing opportunities to reduce those impacts. It also lays groundwork for a roadmap to water neutrality.

The proposed template will help users:

- Determine a company or organization’s baseline and forecasted water footprint based on existing and future activities
- Identify strategies to reduce water consumption and impacts on water quality
- Analyze strategies and aggregating into scenarios for water planning
- Set milestones on the path to neutrality based on scenario modeling
- Measure and monitor progress during implementation

Potential opportunities to reduce a site’s water impacts could include:

- Reducing water use through efficiency and conservation
- Maximizing water reuse and recycling to make the most of the water resources on site
- Minimizing the impacts of stormwater runoff by reducing impervious area and increasing on-site capture
- Generating markets for water quantity and quality trading credits



## FUNDING THE INITIATIVE

CWIC is looking to secure up to \$110,000 to get the Net Zero Water Planning Template off the ground and accomplish the tasks outlined above, including piloting the template with one key stakeholder/sponsor (\$10,000 for each additional pilot). To finance the initiative, we are proposing a sponsorship model in which stakeholders would contribute at specified levels for a defined package of benefits as outlined below.

### Sponsorship Levels

#### \$10,000 Platinum Level

- Pilot the template for your organization's site, with a funding match from the project
- Two seats on the template advisory board
- Participation in the kickoff workshop and other stakeholder engagement activities
- Listed as a "platinum-level sponsor" and organization logo on all initiative materials

#### \$5,000 Gold Level

- One seat on the template advisory board
- Participation in the kickoff workshop and other stakeholder engagement activities
- Listed as a "gold-level sponsor" on template materials

#### \$1,000 Silver Level

- Participation in the kickoff workshop and other stakeholder engagement activities
- Listed as a "silver-level sponsor" on template materials

#### \$500 Bronze Level

- Review and opportunity to provide input on draft template materials

### Current Partners



## PROGRESS TO DATE AND WHAT'S NEXT

We have presented this concept at multiple conferences and received national interest, including the Water Smart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas, Nevada and Net Zero Cities in Fort Collins, Colorado. To maintain this momentum and excitement, and get this initiative moving, first steps have already been taken to explore and test the concept of net zero water planning at multiple scales including a small business site in Fort Collins, a university campus in the eastern United States, and FortZED.

The next step is to bring together an array of experts and stakeholders to refine the process and gather input to ensure the Net Zero Water Planning Template is a success. The proposed timeline and tasks for this initiative are outlined below.

### Summer - Fall 2013

- Fundraising and Stakeholder Identification

### Fall 2013 - Winter 2014

- Project Kick-off and Stakeholder Workshop

### Winter - Spring 2014

- Net Zero Water Planning Template Development

### Spring - Summer 2014

- Template Pilot Implementation with Key Stakeholders/Sponsors

## NET ZERO WATER PLANNING – A FORT COLLINS EXAMPLE

Brendle Group has applied the concept of Net Zero Water to its office building in Fort Collins. A baseline condition was established by determining Brendle Group’s water footprint including water consumed at the site and the water quality impacts of stormwater runoff from the site. Then a preliminary plan to reduce the company’s water quantity and quality impacts was developed with a goal of becoming water neutral by 2020, as shown in the wedge diagrams below.

