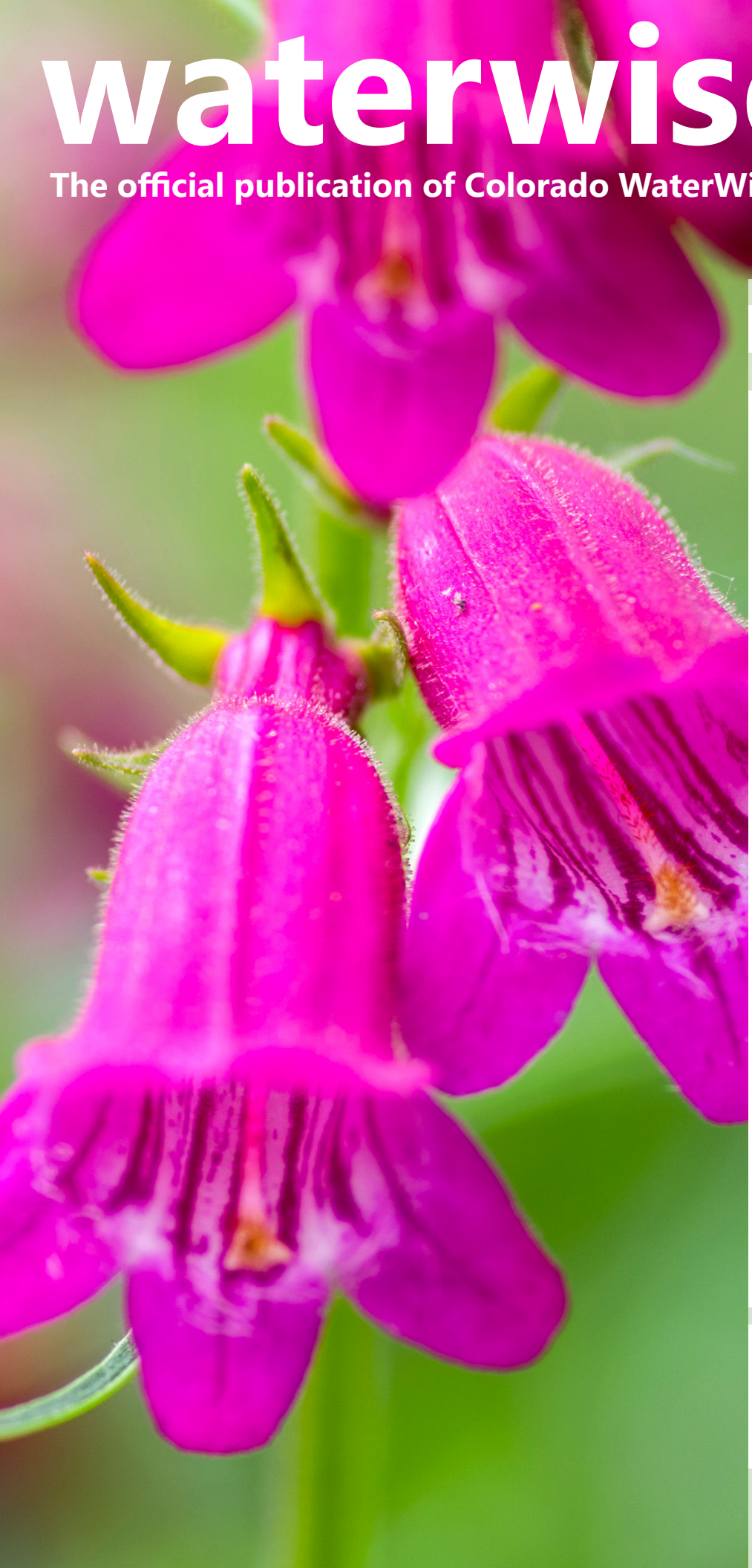
waterwise

The official publication of Colorado WaterWise

The Voice of the Colorado Urban Water Conservation Community



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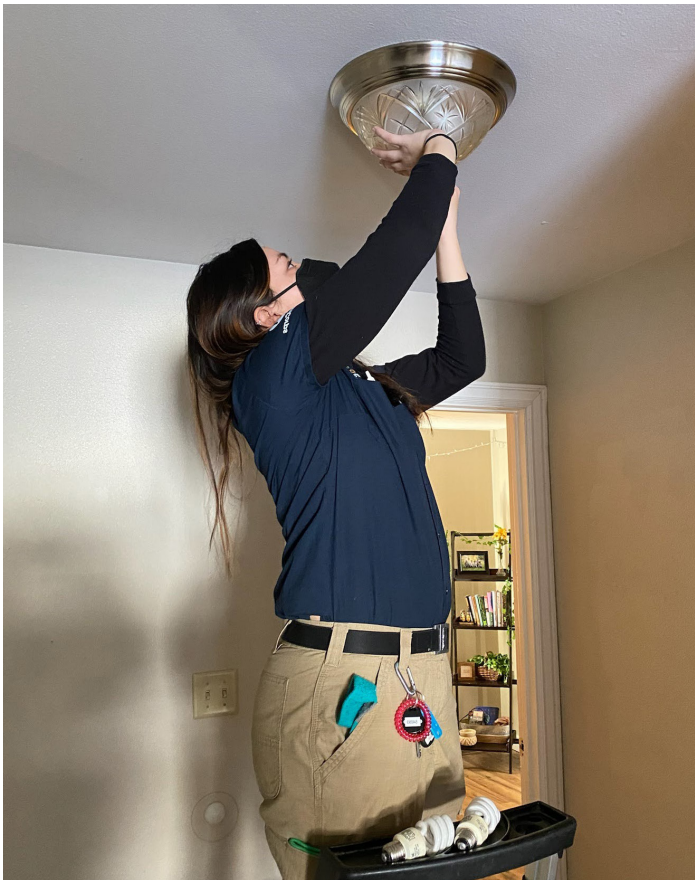
Summer 2022

SAVING WATER, ONE TOILET REPLACEMENT AT A TIME

By Lindsay Rogers, Western Resource Advocates

The City of Evans is partnering with Larimer County Conservation Corps and Northern Water Conservancy District to install high efficiency toilets in homes.

In February, the City of Evans launched its direct install toilet and fixture replacement program to support community water conservation targets and reduce low-income customers' water bills. The City, with support from Larimer County Conservation Corps (LCCC), Northern Water Conservancy District, and Weld County's Community Development Block Grant Program, conducted 48 indoor water audits, replaced 33 toilets, installed 62 faucet aerators, replaced 39 showerheads, and installed 212 LED lightbulbs and 15 smoke/carbon monoxide detectors. Participants registered through LCCC's website and corps members conducted one visit per household to complete a home efficiency assessment and install the high-efficiency fixtures.



"We were thrilled to be able to support community members in making their homes more efficient and affordable. We received positive feedback from program participants and the community about the value of this program," said Justine Schoenbacher, Water Conservation Coordinator for the City of Evans.

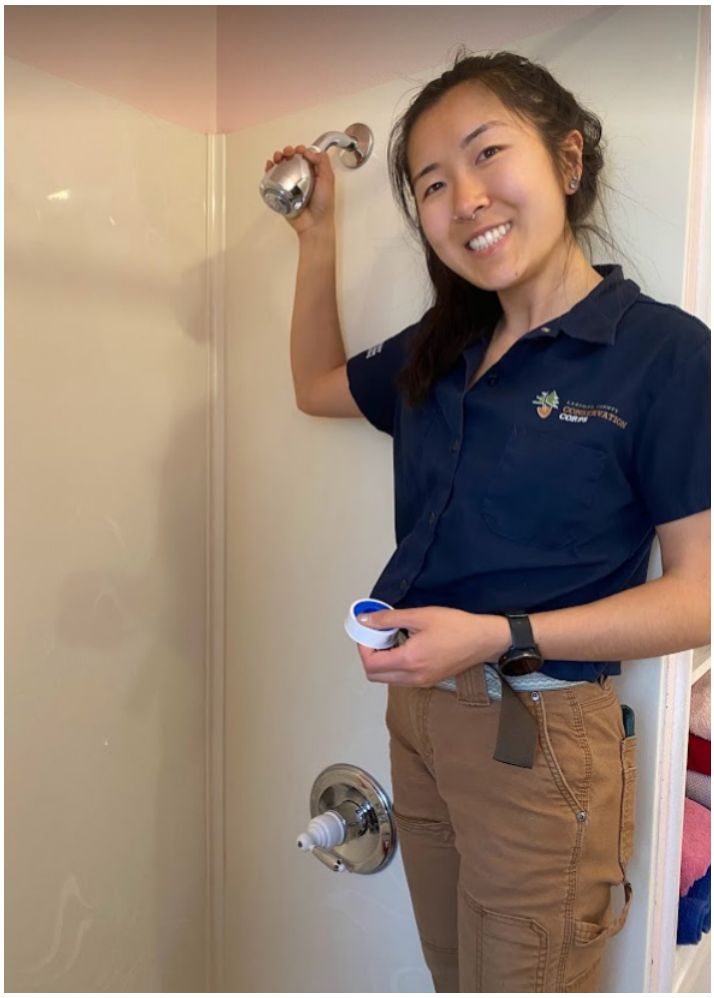
Evans developed the program with support from WaterNow Alliance and Western Resource Advocates through the Project Accelerator Program. The city program was identified as a priority in the City's 2020 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan, which set a goal to decrease water use by 10% by 2028 (even as the City grows by 2-3% each year). Participating households that receive a Niagara Stealth 0.8 gallon per flush toilet are estimated to save 20,000 – 25,000 gallons per household per year.

CITY OF EVANS, CONT.

This pilot year of the program has not been without its hurdles, particularly related to lower than desired program participation from low-income homes. In recognition that Evans experiences low community engagement and a perceived lack of trust between community members and government-related institutions, the City is working to build its network of outreach partners by collaborating with trusted organizations. Additionally, the City is fostering increased enrollment in LEAP – the federal Low-Income Energy Assistance Program - by collaborating with these trusted organizations to concurrently promote LEAP and the water efficiency program.

In the future, Evans would like to expand its indoor audits and high efficiency toilet installation program to other Evans community members, including multi-family households, renters, and commercial, industrial, institutional entities.

"Evans recognizes that water conservation is a critical component in ensuring our community maintains an affordable and healthy future. We value our relationships with local organizations passionate about water conservation and equitable living," said Schoenbacher.



GREEN LAWNS AND BLUE WATERS –
PROTECTING COLORADO'S WATER ONE YARD AT A TIME.
Colorado's phosphorus free lawn fertilizer initiative is starting to grow.

Across Colorado, there's a growing concern for summer-time algal blooms in our lakes, reservoirs, and streams. Whether we are going for a nice paddle, fishing for a keeper, or using the reservoir for drinking water, we have become more aware of algal issues which are caused by excessive phosphorus loads. Where is this phosphorus coming from? Short answer: People.

The more people you have in your watershed, the better chance you will have phosphorus running off the landscape. Some waterbodies, like Barr Lake, need to reduce their annual load of