



 Evans, CO

**FREE WATER AUDITS AND FIXTURE
REPLACEMENTS HELP RESIDENTS
SAVE WATER AND LOWER BILLS**



OUR APPROACH

WaterNow Alliance and Western Resource Advocates (WRA) supported the City of Evans to design a direct-installation indoor water efficiency program to reduce water demand and enhance water affordability. The program provided free indoor audits, and installation of high-efficiency toilets, shower heads, faucet aerators, LED lightbulbs, and smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Initially aimed for income-qualified households qualifying for Colorado's Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LEAP), the City later expanded eligibility to all homeowners.

IMPACT

In its inaugural year, Evans conducted 48 indoor water audits, replaced 33 toilets, installed 62 faucet aerators, and replaced 39 showerheads, along with installing 212 LED light bulbs and 15 smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Based on fixture savings estimates, the program is projected to save more than 70,000 gallons of water each year. This program continues to serve around 50 households annually. By replacing outdated fixtures with high-efficiency models, the City is helping residents reduce water and energy use while lowering utility bills. Though modest in scale, the program prioritizes impact and equity, making water savings more accessible to income-qualified households.

33

toilet replacements

62

**faucet aerators
installed**

48

**indoor water audits
conducted**



KEY DRIVERS

Facing a projected 58% gap between water needs and supplies in the South Platte River Basin by 2050, due to drought and population growth, the City of Evans updated its Municipal Water Efficiency Plan, which included a suite of activities to reduce long-term water demand. Among those activities, residential indoor audits and fixture replacements were identified as effective, low-cost strategies to meet this goal - particularly for households facing .. The program also aimed to improve equity by reaching immigrant and non-English speaking communities.

HOW IT WORKS

Initially limited to LEAP-qualified households, the program is now open to all Evans homeowners. In its first year, the City partnered with the Larimer County Conservation Corps, later transitioning to the Weld County Youth Conservation Corps (WCYCC). Residents contact WCYCC to apply, and after Evans verifies eligibility, staff conduct an in-home water audit and return within two weeks to install up to two new toilets and as many showerheads and faucet aerators needed (all donated by Northern Water). To reach low-income and non-English speaking communities, Evans partnered with the local immigration center and other community groups to build trust and provide information in residents' primary languages.





**[THE CITY OF] 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.**

– Justine Schoenbacher, Water Conservation
Coordinator, City of Evans

A vertical photograph on the left side of the slide showing a calm body of water, possibly a wetland or marsh. In the foreground, there are tall, golden-brown reeds. The middle ground shows a line of reeds and some lily pads on the water. In the background, there is a line of trees with some autumn-colored foliage, and distant hills under a clear blue sky.

THE PATH FORWARD

Evans plans to expand the program to serve more residents, including renters (with homeowner approval), and potentially commercial, industrial, institutional properties. The city is also exploring toilet rebate options to offer participants more product flexibility. These efforts support Evans' broader goal to reduce long-term water demand.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

Conduct preliminary audits to identify and address potential installation challenges.

Offer a variety of toilet models and fixtures to meet different needs and preferences.

Partner with trusted community organizations to build relationships with immigrant and non-English speaking residents.

Use language accessible outreach to increase program participation.

SOURCES

City of Evans, *2019 Municipal Water Efficiency Plan Update* (2020), <https://www.evanscolorado.gov/media/bmgdtzxe/2019-municipal-water-efficiency-plan-update.pdf>.

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Environmental Protection Agency, *Showerheads* (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/showerheads>.

Environmental Protection Agency, *Bathroom Faucets* (Apr. 11, 2025), <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/bathroom-faucets>.

Lindsay Rogers, *Western Resource Advocates, Saving Water, One Toilet Replacement at a Time*, WaterWise, Summer 2022, https://waternow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/CWW-Summer-2022-Newsletter_Web-Version.pdf.

WaterNow Alliance, *City of Evans, CO, Direct Fixture Install for Water Conservation* (2022), https://waternow.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/2022.08.22_Evans-CO-Fact-Sheet_Final.pdf.

WaterNow Alliance, *Evans, CO Direct Install Program for Income-Qualified Residents and Indoor Water Efficiency Audits*, <https://waternow.org/project/fall-20-project-accelerator-evans-co/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CITY OF EVANS RECRUITMENT POSTCARD

DATA TRACKING TEMPLATE

MEMORANDUM FROM WATERNOW ALLIANCE & WESTERN RESOURCE ADVOCATES, TO CITY OF EVANS REGARDING WATER EFFICIENT DIRECT INSTALLATION AND INDOOR WATER AUDIT PROGRAM DESIGN

DIRECT INSTALLATIONS OF LOCALIZED WATER INFRASTRUCTURE: A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR LOCAL WATER LEADERS

RELATED PROJECTS



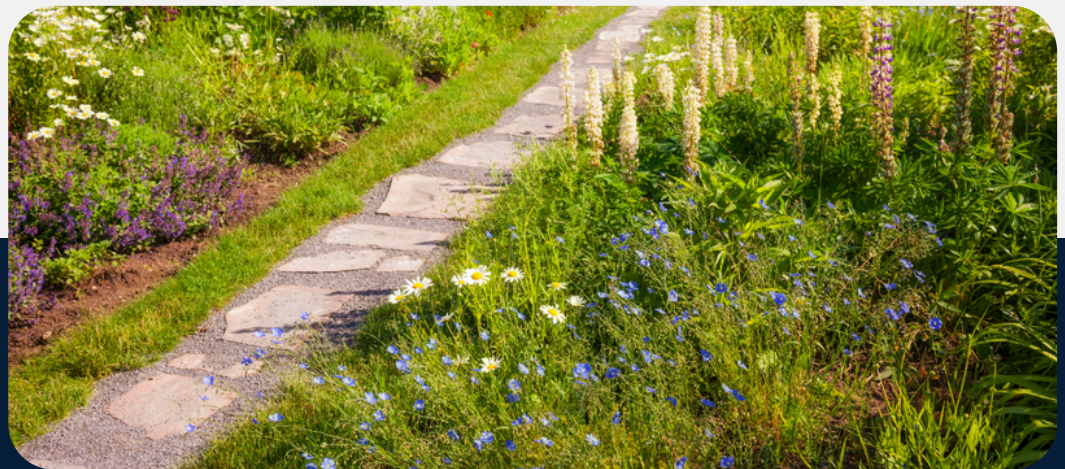
CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA

Toilet Rebate Program Review and Revamp



EVANS, CO

Direct Install Program for Income-Qualified Residents and Indoor Water Efficiency Audits



FOUNTAIN, CO

Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional Turf Conversion Incentive Program Development

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