



# AUMA Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity (CEP) Policy

A companion document to AUMA's CEP Plan

*Prepared by: Alberta Urban Municipalities  
Association*

*Adopted by the AUMA Convention:  
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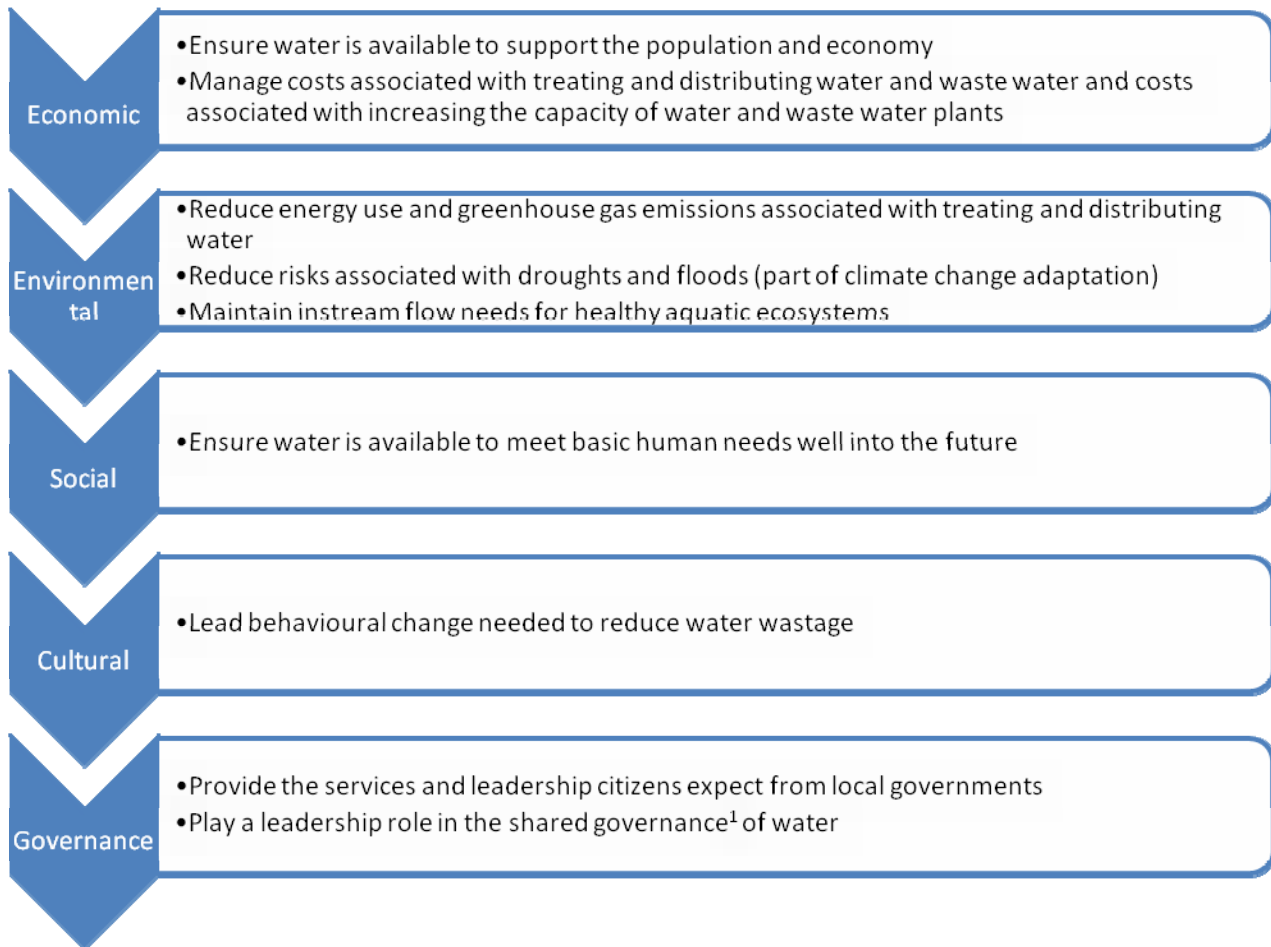
Visit AUMA's Water Conservation Microsite <http://water.auma.ca> for access to tools and resources and the full Water CEP Plan.

AUMA members have been engaged in the development of the CEP Policy and Plan via:

- Surveys
- 2008 AUMA Regional Sessions
- 2008 Water Conservation Workshop
- 2009 Mayor's Caucuses
- AUMA's Water Microsite
- AUMA's:
  - Water Conservation Team of Experts
  - Sustainability and Environment Committee
  - Board of Directors

## 1 WATER CONSERVATION AND MUNICIPAL SUSTAINABILITY

The provision of local water services is a defining feature of Alberta’s municipal governments. Citizens expect to receive a secure supply of water to meet health, economic, recreational and aesthetic needs and wants. Yet water is a finite resource. Already, some Alberta municipalities, particularly in southern Alberta, are dealing with water shortages. Limitations on the supply of water can constrain population and economic growth unless conservation, efficiency and productivity efforts bring demand in line with supply. Figure one shows how water CEP is linked to municipal sustainability.



**Figure 1: Water Conservation and the 5 Dimensions of MSP**

Increasing the capacity of municipalities to conserve water has become a top priority of the AUMA in recognition of the importance of water to municipal sustainability and current and foreseeable supply challenges.

# 1 POLICY

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## 1.1 Vision

AUMA member municipalities will be leaders in conservation by using water efficiently, effectively and productively.

## 2.2 Mission

Build the capacity of AUMA members to develop and implement water conservation, efficiency and productivity plans.

## 2.3 Short-Term Targets

The following short term targets will be set:

1. By 2010, all AUMA member municipalities with water systems in place will report water use data through Alberta Environment's electronic Water Use Reporting System (WURS)
2. By Dec 31, 2011, AUMA member municipalities will develop Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Plans according to the following participation rates:
  - 100% of municipalities with populations greater than 10,000
  - 75% of municipalities with populations between 2500 and 10,000
  - 50% of municipalities with populations under 2500
3. By Dec 31, 2011, AUMA member municipalities will estimate their Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) and identify ways to reduce leaks according to the following participation rates:
  - 100% of municipalities with populations greater than 10,000
  - 75% of municipalities with populations between 2500 and 10,000
  - 50% of municipalities with populations under 2500
4. By Dec 2011, AUMA member municipalities will implement incentives and/or disincentives of their own choosing to increase the uptake of water efficient fixtures and technologies. Different programs may apply to new and existing developments. Participation rates will be:
  - 100% of municipalities with populations greater than 10,000
  - 75% of municipalities with populations between 2500 and 10,000
  - 50% of municipalities with populations under 2500

## 2 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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### 2.1 Recommendations for AUMA Members

- Commit to the four water CEP targets.
- Update AUMA on progress towards short-term water CEP targets each April for inclusion in AUMA's annual report.
- Work with AUMA and Alberta Environment to ensure water use reporting data is meaningful and accurately reflects municipal water usage.
- Engage in dialogue about water CEP successes and challenges with colleagues across the province.
- Develop strategies to support the move towards full metering and full cost accounting as part of the CEP planning and implementation process.

### 3.2 Recommendations for Government

#### Alberta Environment

- Coordinate with AUMA and member municipalities to ensure that WURS data is meaningful and accurately reflects municipal water usage.
- Supply municipal water use reporting data to AUMA every year, commencing in April 2010.
- Continue to support municipalities with drinking water operations by providing educational and technical resources, including full cost accounting workshops.

#### Alberta Transportation

- Continue grant support for municipal water infrastructure.
- Use provincial grants to incent CEP, as identified in the Alberta Water Council's Recommendations for Water Conservation, Efficiency and Productivity Sector Planning.

### 3.3 Actions for AUMA

- Water Microsite
  - Provide information on meeting each of the four short-term targets including models, templates, case studies and links to other resources.
  - Include an online forum where municipal CEP practitioners can share experiences and learn from each other.
- Learning Events
  - Schedule further Water Workshops for reviewing conservation strategies and recommendations.
  - Use regularly scheduled events such as AUMA's Annual Convention and Mayors' caucuses to provide information.
  - Contribute knowledge to events hosted by the Alberta Water and Wastewater Operators Association (AWWOA), Western Canada Water (WCW) and other related organizations.

- Measuring Progress
  - Collect data from members indicating progress towards meeting the four targets and identify barriers to meeting targets.
  - Coordinate the collection of data and track trends on municipal water usage from the WURS system in April of each year.
- Communications
  - Use the Weekly Digest and Small Communities newsletter to promote the Water Microsite and share key messages.
  - Use the weekly digest and AUMA events to get feedback from members on the support AUMA is providing and make improvements as necessary and appropriate.
  - Promote progress on targets to other orders of government and the public.