

What is the Initiative?

Colorado's ongoing, 20+-year drought has put increasing strain on both local and national water supplies. Climate change has severely impacted the Colorado River Basin, which provides water to 40 million people. Colorado's unending drought has created historically low runoff levels, causing both Lake Mead and Lake Powell to near dead pool (inability to generate hydropower) levels. A recent study from researchers at New Mexico's Los Alamos National Laboratory found that Colorado could see a 50 to 60% reduction in snow within 60 years.

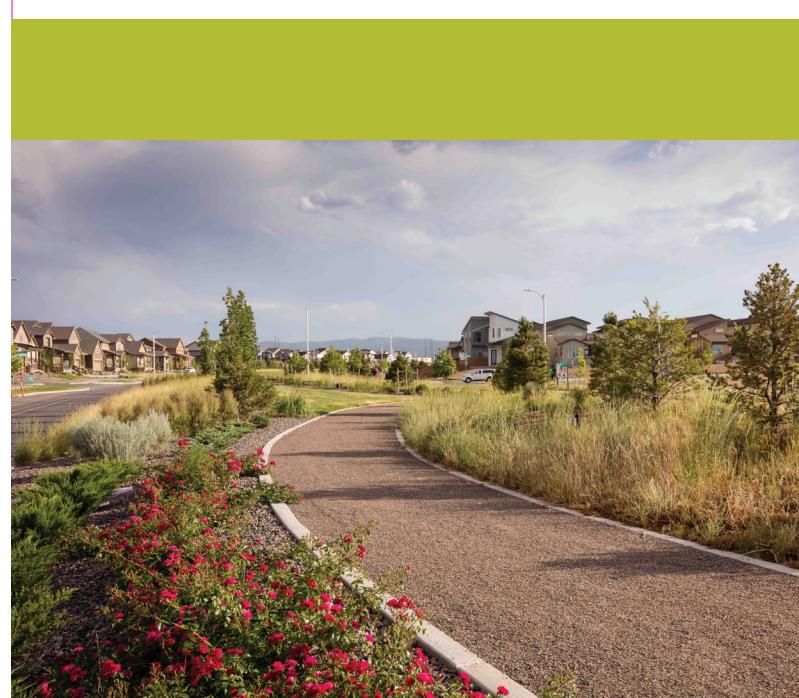
In response, water utilities across the state have enacted watering restrictions to reduce outdoor water use since 2001, with more on the horizon. In fact, one major Front Range municipality has reduced outdoor watering to just two days per week in 2023.

Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado (ALCC) is Colorado's largest green industry professional trade association, and it created the SLC initiative to demonstrate how HOAs, commercial and retail properties are, or can become, part of the solution.

Be part of the solution! The SLC initiative furthers a major tenet of the Colorado Water Plan: active collaboration by different entities to conserve our most precious resource — water.

The Sustainable Landscape Community (SLC) designation recognizes larger water users for incorporating landscape practices that save water. SLC is based upon best management practices in landscape maintenance. By using water-conserving, sustainable landscape management (SLM) guidelines, large water users systematically reduce water consumption. These guidelines also encourage the use of plants indigenous and acclimated to Colorado, which helps landscapes thrive even in our harsh, dry climate.

SLC is a blueprint for all large water users to reduce the amount of water they use outdoors.



"SLC is the right choice for communities that want to get ahead of current and future outdoor water restrictions."

—John McMahon, ALCC CEO



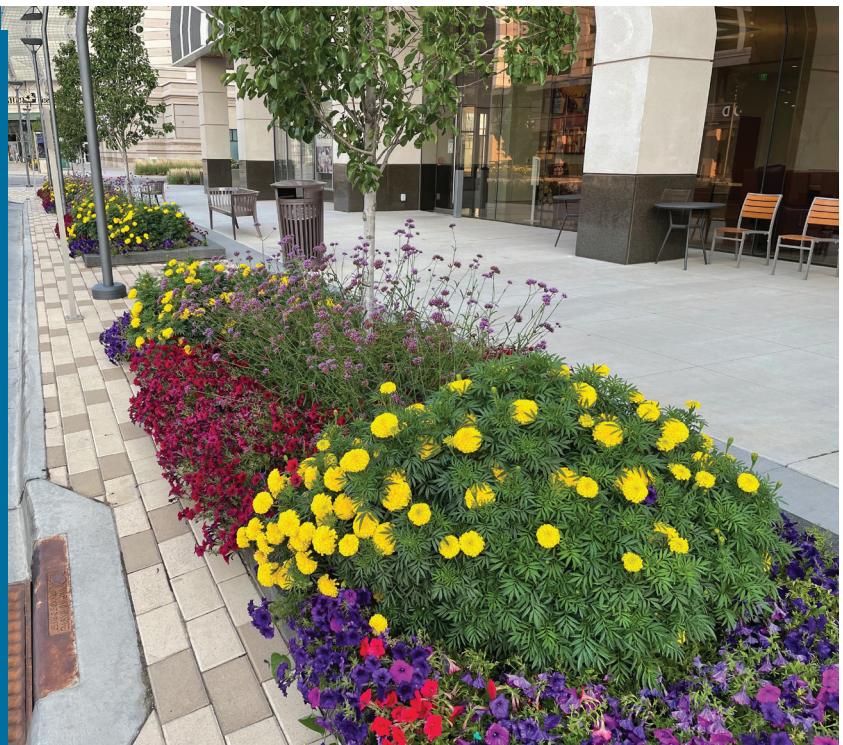
More information about the Sustainable Landscape Community program is available at www.alcc.com/slc.



Join the Sustainable Landscape Community Initiative

Want to stand out as environmentally savvy, and save money at the same time? The Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado invites your community to join the Sustainable Landscape Community Initiative.





Benefits of the SLC Designation

1. Set yourself apart as a green and water-savvy community. The SLC designation distinguishes large, water-using communities that employ sustainable landscape maintenance practices.
2. Save dollars as well as water.
3. Boast healthy, vibrant landscapes during particularly dry spells.
4. Educate community members about water savings measures with ALCC-provided materials.

What Counts as a Sustainable Landscape?

Sustainable landscapes are responsive to the environment, re-generative and can actively contribute to healthy communities. Sustainable landscapes sequester carbon, clean the air and water, increase energy efficiency, reduce the heat island effect, attract pollinators and provide wildlife habitat. Manicured turf areas are not sustainable landscapes, but native/xeric landscapes are.

What Will it Cost?

The real question is “what will it save”? Centerra in Loveland is the first community in Colorado to receive ALCC’s SLC designation. The table below illustrates their costs for installation, annual maintenance and annual utilities for three different types of landscape: Native, Enhanced Native and Manicured Landscapes. The numbers speak for themselves.

Cost of Landscaping Types Comparison Summary

| Native Landscape | Enhanced Native | Manicured Landscape |
|---|---|---|
| Installation Cost \$1.24 per SF | Installation Cost \$1.79 per SF | Installation Cost \$3.99 per SF |
| Annual Maintenance Cost \$0.07 per SF | Annual Maintenance Cost \$0.12 per SF | Annual Maintenance Cost \$0.16 per SF |
| Total Installation + 1 Year Maintenance \$1.31 per SF | Total Installation + 1 Year Maintenance \$1.91 per SF | Total Installation + 1 Year Maintenance \$4.15 per SF |
| Annual Utility Costs 2022 \$0.02 per SF Low | Annual Utility Costs 2022 \$0.11 per SF Median | Annual Utility Costs 2022 \$0.24 per SF High |

Surveyed at 300,000 SF Surveyed at 300,000 SF Surveyed at 300,000 SF

“When you compare the cost of native plants and sustainable techniques with those of regular turf and imported plants, the difference is astounding. We are amazed by just how much we’ve saved at Centerra following the guidelines for a Sustainable Landscape Community.”

— Kim Perry, Vice President of Community Design and Neighborhood Development, McWhinney

Become a Sustainable Landscape Community

Now is the time to reduce water use through sustainability and answer the call to action for collaboration in Colorado’s Water Plan. If you manage, govern, or oversee a community or property that wants to be recognized for its commitment to water conservation and sustainability, learn about the application process.

The application process consists of documentation of sustainable landscape maintenance practices used on site, including photos and detailed information including:

- Landscape company handling maintenance of community — must be an ALCC member and participate in the Sustainable Landscape Management program.
- Turf areas on property — type and watering schedule.
- Plants, trees and shrubs on property, indicating native plants.
- Irrigation system detail, including irrigation audit and water budget.
- Drainage and pest management solutions.

A one-time application fee of \$1,000 is required along with a yearly fee of \$400 once the designation is obtained.

More information about the Sustainable Landscape Community program is available at www.alcc.com/slc.

If you represent or work with a large water user, please also consider ALCC’s Sustainable Landscape Management Initiative, which certifies landscape employees in Sustainable Landscape Management practices. More information at www.alcc.com/slm or call 303-757-5611.