

## Colorado

Water loss is a particularly important issue in Colorado, where approximately 95% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Colorado's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 843.95 million gallons of water per day for treatment and distribution to customers. Those public water suppliers face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$10.19 billion for Colorado's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

State law (HB 10-1051) requires 'covered entities', defined as those water suppliers providing over 2,000 acre-feet of water per year, to report water use and conservation data on an annual basis, to be used for statewide water supply planning. The administering agency is the Colorado Water Conservation Board, which developed Guidelines for this reporting requirement. The 'covered entities' constitute 90-95% of the public water demand in the State.

Beginning June 30, 2014, and continuing through the year 2020, covered entities are to report water use and conservation data for the previous calendar year by June 30. The reported data is to include a basic water loss component, and a checkbox to indicate if the utility has employed the AWWA M36 method. By February 1, 2019, the Board is to report to the Legislature on the Guidelines and data collected under the Guidelines. Without further action, the legislation sunsets on July 1, 2020. Colorado is launching a pilot M36 training program, with intention to look at statewide training and technical assistance for water loss management using the M36 methodology.

Colorado Water Conservation Board, "Guidelines Regarding the Reporting of Water Use and Conservation Data by Covered Entities", November 2011.

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/legal/documents/guidelines/hb1051guidelines.pdf>

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2015", September 28, 2017- <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59a96d18e4b07e1a023db323>

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress", March 2018 - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth\\_drinking\\_water\\_infrastructure\\_needs\\_survey\\_and\\_assessment.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf)