



Water System Plan Update

The mission of Olympia's water utility is to provide and protect healthy drinking water for the community. To make sure the utility continues to meet its mission, the utility is updating its Water System Plan.

The 2021-2026 Water System Plan will demonstrate to the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), our regulator, that the utility has the operational, technical, managerial and financial capacity to achieve and maintain compliance with all relevant local, state and federal regulations now and into the future.



What are our Water System Planning Requirements?

Washington Administrative Code 246-290-100 requires water utilities with 1,000 or more connections, or those that are expanding, to develop water system plans every 6 to 10 years. Water system plans are reviewed and approved by the Washington State Department of Health and are formatted to demonstrate the utility's capacity to remain in compliance with relevant local, state and federal regulations.

Water systems plans must include the following key information:

- A water demand forecast & water source assessment.
 - The identification of system deficiencies and a plan to address them, including a capital facilities plan.
 - A source water protection program.
 - A water conservation goal established in a public forum.
 - Service and service area policies.
 - A financial plan, including the identification of revenues adequate to address projected expenses.
 - An Operations and Maintenance program.
 - Documentation that a customer informational meeting has been held, State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements have been met and the WSP has been approved by the legislative authority.

TIMELINE

2021 Water System Plan - Development Process

What are our Risk and Resiliency Assessment Requirements?

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 requires us to conduct a Risk and Resilience Assessment, including an examination of risks from malevolent acts and natural hazards, by December 31, 2020 and an Emergency Response Plan that addresses the identified risks by June 30, 2021.

The results of the Risk and Resiliency Assessment will inform the water system planning process, especially the development of the capital and operations and maintenance programs.



What will the Water System Planning Process Focus on?

In addition to meeting water system planning requirements, the water utility will focus on the following during this update cycle:

Our Water Sources: Our primary focus during the development of our 2015-2020 WSP was on changing our source of supply from McAllister Springs (surface supply) to the McAllister Wellfield. During this update, we intend to evaluate the current health of our production wells and consider possible alternative sequencing of our water rights. We will focus foremost on our Shana Park Well itself and in conjunction with the use of our other Southeast Olympia wells and water rights.



Our Storage Infrastructure: In recent years we have been conducting seismic and condition evaluations of our reservoirs/tanks. Currently, we are making seismic upgrades to our Fir St and Elliot reservoirs. During this update, we intend to prepare a plan for addressing how and when to address upgrades to - or replacement of - our other reservoirs/tanks.



Our Aging Infrastructure: Our 2015-2020 WSP included an Asset Management Strategy. Since that time, we have made progress in several areas, including with our asset inventory. During this update, we will focus on determining replacement costs and effective life of our assets in order to better inform, educate and engage the community and our elected officials of our infrastructure investment needs.



Water System Plan Update – Project Assumptions

The water system plan update process will be guided by the following assumptions:

The 2015-2020 Water System Plan serves as an excellent starting point for the 2021-2026 WSP – a minor update will occur consistent with Washington Administrative Code planning requirements.

A city cross-sectional writing team will serve as the primary plan authors. Consulting assistance will be used for:

- Water demand forecasting & source analysis
- System deficiency analysis
- Capital improvement development & project cost estimating
- Financial and rate analysis

Outreach activities will include, at a minimum, a customer informational meeting, a conservation goal setting forum, a neighboring system and public review period and a public hearing. The Utility Advisory Committee will serve as the primary review committee.

Mission

*Provide and protect
nature's water for a
healthy community.*

What are the 2021-2026 Water System Plan's DRAFT Goals and Objectives?

As a first step in the water system plan update process, the city cross-sectional writing team has reviewed the 2015-2020 Water System Plan goals and objectives. This review resulted in a recommendation to include one new goal, and associated objectives, to address climate change. As additional work is completed by the writing team, additional revisions may be made.

Water System Plan Goals and Objectives

Goal 1: **Adequate supplies of water are available for the Olympia community while protecting in-stream flows and sustaining long-term capacity of aquifers. (Chapter 4)**

Objective 1A: Identify water rights that ensure adequate supply for at least 50 years, so sources can be protected from contamination or commitment to lower priority uses.

Objective 1B: Encourage multi-jurisdictional approaches to water rights and source development.

Objective 1C: Monitor water levels in all pumped aquifers and maintain numerical groundwater models to better define aquifer characteristics and accurately evaluate the impacts of the City's withdrawals.

Goal 2: **Water is delivered at pressures required by the Washington State Department of Health and meets Safe Drinking Water Act standards. (Chapter 11)**

Objective 2A: Maintain 100 percent compliance with all state and federal monitoring requirements.

Objective 2B: Maintain 100 percent compliance with all state and federal treatment requirements.

Objective 2C: Respond to customer water quality concerns promptly and maintain accurate records.

Objective 2D: Support the groundwater protection network with monitoring and data collection.

Goal 3: **Olympia's water supplies are used efficiently to meet the present and future needs of the community and natural environment.**

Objective 3A: PLACEHOLDER—new water conservation objective.

Objective 3B: PLACEHOLDER—new water conservation objective.

Objective 3C: Meet the needs of current and future City reclaimed water customers. (Chapter 6)

Objective 3D: Prioritize use of reclaimed water towards meeting the regional wastewater management goal of reducing the amount of treated wastewater discharged into Puget Sound. (Chapter 6)

Goal 4: **Customers have access to the information they need, have a role in accomplishing Utility goals, and participate in Utility decision making. (Chapter 1)**

Objective 4A: Engage with drinking water customers regularly.

Objective 4B: Coordinate customer service and education with the City's other water resource utilities and LOTT.

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Goal 5: **Groundwater quality is protected to ensure clean drinking water for present and future generations and to avoid the need for expensive replacement or treatment facilities. (Chapter 7)**

Objective 5A: Prevent contamination of groundwater through surveillance and response.

Objective 5B: Strengthen and exercise partnerships with citizens and state/local agencies.

Objective 5C: Improve program policies, procedures and tools to enhance the effectiveness of groundwater protection efforts.

Goal 6: **Infrastructure is prudently financed, and sustainably constructed, maintained and operated to ensure reliable delivery of high quality water to a growing community. (Chapters 8-13)**

Objective 6A: Design and construct infrastructure to ensure reliable delivery of water. (Chapters 8, 9, 10)

Objective 6B: Continue to improve maintenance management, including preventive maintenance, repairs and replacements. (Chapter 12)

Objective 6C: Continue to improve the Utility's emergency response program and maintain facility security. (Chapter 12)

Objective 6D: Continue to improve O&M program management, including safety and asset management. (Chapter 12)

Goal 7: **Drinking Water Utility finances are managed responsibly, and costs are recovered equitably based on customer use. (Chapter 14)**

Objective 7A: Set rates that reflect financial policies and recover the cost of providing services to each customer class.

Objective 7B: Manage Utility rates and connection fees consistent with the City's guiding principle of growth paying for growth.

Objective 7C: Use debt financing responsibly to support needed capital facility investments and "smooth" rate impacts.

Goal 8: **The Utility implements all applicable City and region-wide climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.**

Objective 8A: Reduce the Drinking Water Utility's greenhouse gas emissions.

Objective 8B: Adapt drinking water infrastructure to accommodate predicted sea level rise projections.

