

Reuse Drivers in Oregon

Oregon communities are investing in *safe* and *reliable* recycled water solutions.

Urban Greenspace

Clean Water Services (CWS), a sanitary and surface water management district in Washington County, provides approximately one million gallons of recycled water per day to its retail customers. In one year, CWS provided 93 million gallons (including onsite use) of irrigation water to more than 218 acres of athletic fields, golf courses and parks from the Durham facility. Some customers have been tapping into CWS' water reuse program since the 1990s. CWS understands that water reuse is not only good for business and the community, it is a critical element for a healthy Tualatin River Watershed.



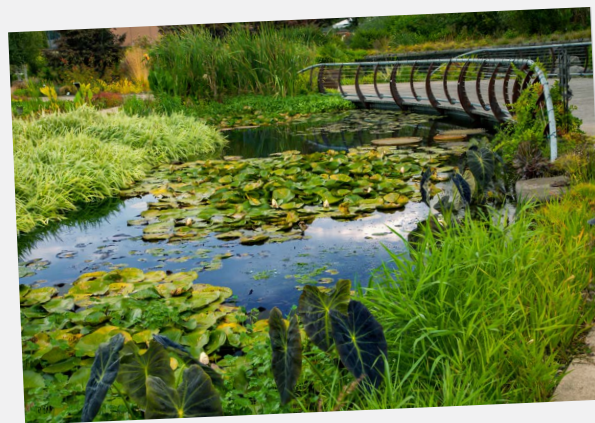
Resilient Agriculture

The City of Hermiston and the West Extension Irrigation District (WEID) partnered to solve two critical problems. WEID needed additional water to meet the needs of its farmers and the City's Recycled Water Facility needed an alternate location to discharge its recycled water during peak hot weather months. In this dry part of the state where water is increasingly scarce, the reuse program allows farmers to augment their water supply for no additional cost. Thanks to this partnership, over one million gallons of recycled water, which meets all irrigation water quality requirements for use on organic food crops, provides around 10% of the total irrigation water from May to October. This is a win-win for the local growers and the Umatilla River. The WEID project was selected by the Oregon Water Resources Department as a winner of the Tyler Hansell Agricultural Efficiency Award in 2017, which recognizes outstanding commitment to water conservation and responsible water management.



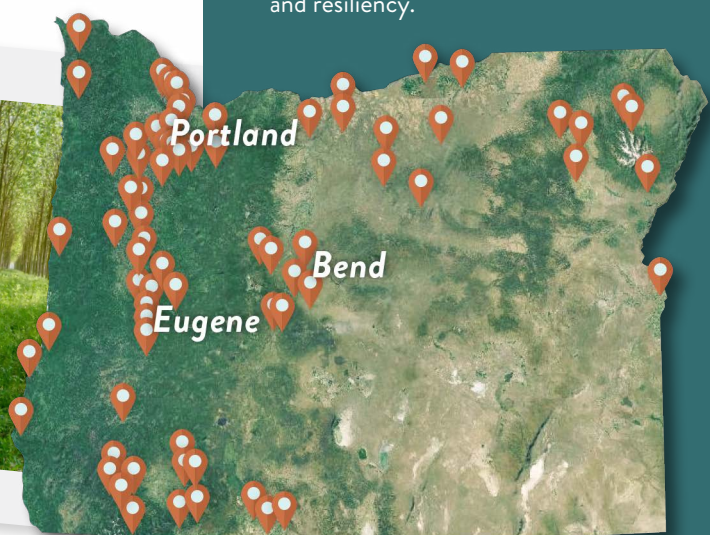
Thriving Ecotourism

A partnership between the City of Silverton and the Oregon Gardens allows recycled water to be used in a wetlands habitat for a variety of wildlife and plants. Running through the Oregon Gardens cools the water that would be too warm for Silver Creek without that step. The water flows through a series of terraced ponds with waterfalls, pools and wetlands plants. In peak season, over one million gallons a day are reused to irrigate the Gardens instead of warming the creek. The water is collected in a holding tank where it then flows into an irrigation system which supplies reuse water for the Oregon Gardens landscape. Having reliable, no-cost irrigation water allows Oregon Gardens to provide low-cost education and recreation to plant lovers from town and beyond.



Innovative Resource Recovery

Biocycle Farm is a 400-acre sustainable poplar tree plantation that is owned and operated by the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWWC), a utility providing high quality wastewater services to the communities of Eugene and Springfield. Reuse water is used to irrigate the plantation, and biosolids are used for fertilizer. Both are products of MWWC's Regional Treatment Plant, offering opportunity to recycle valuable nutrients into new products. The trees are managed as an agricultural crop, harvested and sold in the marketplace to offset MWWC operating costs and provide a renewable resource for building products. Beneficially reusing water helps keep clean, cool water in the Willamette and McKenzie River systems to promote healthy fish habitat.



What is Water Reuse?

Reuse (also known as recycled water) is wastewater, stormwater, saltwater, or graywater that has been purified so that it can be reused.

For over 30 years, water reuse has helped meet the water needs of the Pacific Northwest. There are hundreds of active water reuse permits in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. In Oregon, water can be reused for agriculture, industry, commercial, and construction. Water can be reused to fill an irrigation reservoir, or water fiber crops, orchards, vineyards, and Christmas trees. Water can be reused for industrial process water, dust control, a car wash, or concrete mixing. Water features, ponds, and recreational lakes can be replenished with reuse water. This helps take less water out of rivers and groundwater aquifers.

Water reuse builds climate resiliency, stabilizes water rates, and sustains economic activity. Reused water can reduce river temperature, preventing fish die-offs. A diverse water portfolio is part of a proactive state and regional water strategy. Recycling water sustains water access, affordability, and resiliency.