



Water Reuse in Oregon

Department of Environmental Quality

Water Quality Program

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House Committee on Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water

Task Force on Drought Emergency Response

- **Recommendation ‘M’** from the 2016 Task Force Report:
 - Encourage water reuse activities throughout the state, while protecting instream flow, water quality, public health, and drinking water sources
 - Water reuse can result in more water being available for other instream and out-of-stream uses
 - Water reuse is a tool to augment supply, which can increase resiliency to drought

What is Water Reuse?

- **Water reuse:** Umbrella term encompassing the beneficial use of recycled/reclaimed water, industrial water, and graywater
- **Recycled/reclaimed water:** Treated effluent from a municipal wastewater treatment system
- **Industrial water:** Effluent generated from industrial processes, manufacturing operations, or extraction/development of natural resources
- **Graywater:** Wastewater from showers, bathtubs, sinks and laundry machines from residential and commercial buildings

Water Reuse and DEQ's Role

- Issue permits
- Consult/coordinate with other state agencies
- Ensure compliance with permit conditions

Water Reuse Policy

- **House Bill 2010 (2023):**
 - Support water quality, water supply and use, habitat and ecosystem needs
 - Identify barriers
 - Recommend changes
 - Develop technical assistance materials
 - 1.0 FTE limited duration position
- **House Bill 2169 (2025):**
 - Built on HB 2010 and provided additional direction
 - Establish an interagency water reuse team
 - Consult with utilities, industry stakeholders and other interested parties
 - Made limited duration position permanent

Current Efforts and Timeline

Interagency Water Reuse Team

- Water Resources Department
- Oregon Health Authority
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Agriculture

Water Reuse Advisory Group

- local governments
- tribal governments
- agriculture, business and industry
- environmental and conservation organizations
- academic and engineering experts
- community and equity representatives

Current Efforts and Timeline (continued)

- Evaluating programs in other states
- Developing internal and external guidance
- Conducting education and outreach
- Pursuing two distinct rulemaking initiatives
 1. Recycled/reclaimed water 2026/2027
 2. Industrial water 2028/2029
- Exploring short-term water reuse solutions for current drought conditions

Questions?

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