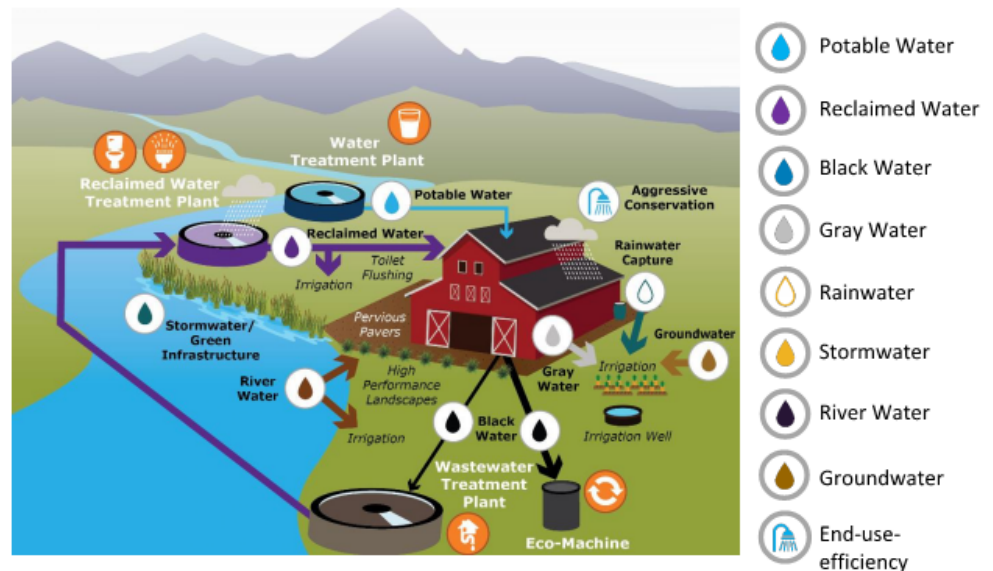


The One Water concept has been adopted by some, and is of great interest to many others, for its collaborative approach to achieving sustainable, reliable, and resilient water systems. Previous efforts helped set the stage for integrated water resources planning, but many utilities have identified the need for tactical steps or guidance to develop a One Water framework.

Urban water systems keep our cities healthy, safe, and livable. However, these systems are struggling to adapt to evolving threats from population and land use change, increasing competition for limited water resources, aging water infrastructure, extreme events and climate change, emerging contaminants, and increasing adverse social environmental justice implications. At the same time, a growing body of evidence indicates that activities within cities and massive urban infrastructure systems have culminated in degradation of the natural capital of cities, including urban drainage and ecosystems.

Urban water infrastructure, while providing vital services to city dwellers, consumes massive quantities of energy, produces concentrated nutrients waste streams, and ultimately degrades ecosystem health. These pressures to protect ecosystems, promote green cities, improve equity, lower costs, and mitigate hazards have inspired new ways of managing water that follows a more regenerative make-use-return paradigm. The name of this new paradigm adopted by a growing number of water organization? **One Water.**



One Water strategies include: enhanced end-use-efficiency, reclaimed water and recycling, gray water reuse, stormwater and rainwater harvesting, green infrastructure, and increased reliance on local water sources (image courtesy of Greg Fisher, Denver Water)

One Water represents "an integrated planning and implementation approach to managing finite water resources for long-term resilience and reliability, meeting both community and ecosystem needs." Two key transitions drive the One Water approach:

- 1) Transitioning from managing systems in silos to an integrated planning and management paradigm that enables coordinated and aligned actions; and
- 2) Transitioning from a "service-oriented" model to a "resource-management" model to protect or restore our natural resources and make cities more resilient.

The City of Los Angeles is the first large city in the US that has already made great progress on embracing and integrating the One Water framework with the completion of One Water LA 2040 Plan. The presentation will highlight the plan components, including the broad stakeholder engagement approach. Now that the plan is complete, we can even look back and share lessons learned and factors for success.