

Municipal Water Conservation/ Turf Removal

October 31, 2023

Colorado Municipal League

The Colorado Municipal League (CML) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization established in 1923, and represents more than 99 percent of the municipal population in the state. CML's daily operations revolve around three areas of service to our members:

We provide:

Advocacy
Information
Training



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

CML Lobbyists

Heather Stauffer

Advocacy Manager

hstauffer@cml.org

Issues include: Natural Resources and Environment; Building Codes; Elections; Governmental Immunity; Oil and Gas; Open Meetings/Open Records; Severance Tax; Water and Wastewater/Water Quality and Wildfire.

Jeremy Schupbach

Legislative & Policy Advocate

jschupbach@cml.org

Issues include: Regulated Substances; Hemp; Criminal Justice; Special Districts; Immigration; Public Safety, Municipal Courts, Telecom/Broadband, IT, and Utilities.

Elizabeth Haskell

Legislative & Policy Advocate

ehaskell@cml.org

Issues include: Beer & Liquor; Employment & Labor; Economic Development; Retirement & Pensions; Taxation; Lottery & Gaming; Historic Preservation; Municipal Debt & Finance; and Purchasing

Beverly Stables

Legislative & Policy Advocate

bstables@cml.org

Issues include: Public Health; Substance Abuse; Affordable Housing; Land Use; Air Quality; Transportation & Transit; and Sustainability.



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Municipal Conservation Efforts

Municipalities are on the forefront of turf reduction and removal in Colorado

[Colorado cities accelerate turf bans and public turf removal \(coloradosun.com\)](#)



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Notable Examples

- Aurora
- Broomfield
- Fort Collins
- Grand Junction
- Edgewater
- Thornton
- Denver
- Crested Butte
- Greeley
- Castle Rock
- Lafayette
- Durango



Municipal Partnerships

- Many municipalities partner with nonprofits like Resource Central to offer water conservation and lawn replacement services to residents at a reduced rate.
 - Municipalities will typically subsidize these projects so that customers pay \$1.00 per square foot up to a predetermined max set by the municipality.
- In 2023 Resource Central completed 604 lawn replacement projects.
 - 558,860 square feet of turf that was removed with an estimated water savings of 3,855,112 gallons of water.



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE

Garden in a box

- 11,000 waterwise Garden In A Box kits distributed in 2023.
- Estimated water savings for Garden In A Box: 10.2 million gallons in 2023, 71.5 million over the lifetime of the gardens.



Work with municipalities



Statewide goals around turf reduction can be accomplished by working with municipalities, rather than pre-empting local land-use authority.



Put additional state resources into programs that municipalities utilize, such as the state's turf replacement program.



Put together model codes that munis can easily adopt, backed up by research and data.



Thank you!

Questions?

Contact CML anytime!

1144 Sherman Street

Denver, CO 80203

303-831-6411 • 866-578-0936

www.cml.org



COLORADO
MUNICIPAL
LEAGUE