

Structure of a Best Management Practice

The following elements form the structure of a best management practice.

Applicability

The specific type of water user group that could potentially benefit from the BMP is described, as are the general goals for water efficiency that the BMP addresses.

Description

This section provides an explanation of the specifics of the conservation measure(s) included in the BMP. This section provides information that should assist the user in determining cost effectiveness and applicability of the practice. Often a best available practice may not yet be cost effective to be implemented by all water users. Highly efficient water conservation measures that will produce cost-effective results are mentioned.

Implementation

The basic steps to accomplish the BMP are described. If the description section includes more than one measure to complete the BMP, the implementation section will suggest necessary steps for achieving the water savings.

Scope & Schedule

In BMPs which have multiple implementation steps, a recommended schedule for implementation is included. In general, planning, data gathering and evaluation steps should be accomplished within 12 months of adoption of a specific BMP. For simpler BMPs, the scope is complete when the steps described in the implementation section have been achieved. For more complicated BMPs, the scope indicates the level of implementation necessary to consider the BMP complete. Where different levels of implementation or constraints are present, these are described.

Measuring Implementation and Determining Water Savings

To track the progress of a BMP, the water user should collect certain data to document progress implementing the BMP and evaluating actual water savings. This section identifies the recommended data. Information to calculate water savings from implementation of the BMP and may include statistical or mathematical formulas when appropriate.

Cost-Effectiveness Considerations

Basic costs of implementing the specific BMP are explained. Due to the wide variety in actual costs based upon size of program and location, ranges of costs are given where appropriate. In many cases, costs and expenses can be reduced or spread out when multiple BMPs are implemented by an entity. This section primarily serves to remind the users of costs to consider when performing a cost effectiveness analysis.

References for Additional Information

The BMP concludes with a listing of resources that can assist a water user in implementing the BMP.

Determination of the Impact on Other Resources

This section serves to provide a generalized identification of other resources that are either required or saved by the implementation of this BMP. Specifically, related energy savings might easily result from a reduced water demand as well as lower infrastructure capital costs and annual maintenance and equipment.

Acknowledgments

This section may include a brief listing of associations, groups, and organizations that were involved in the development and review of the particular bmp.