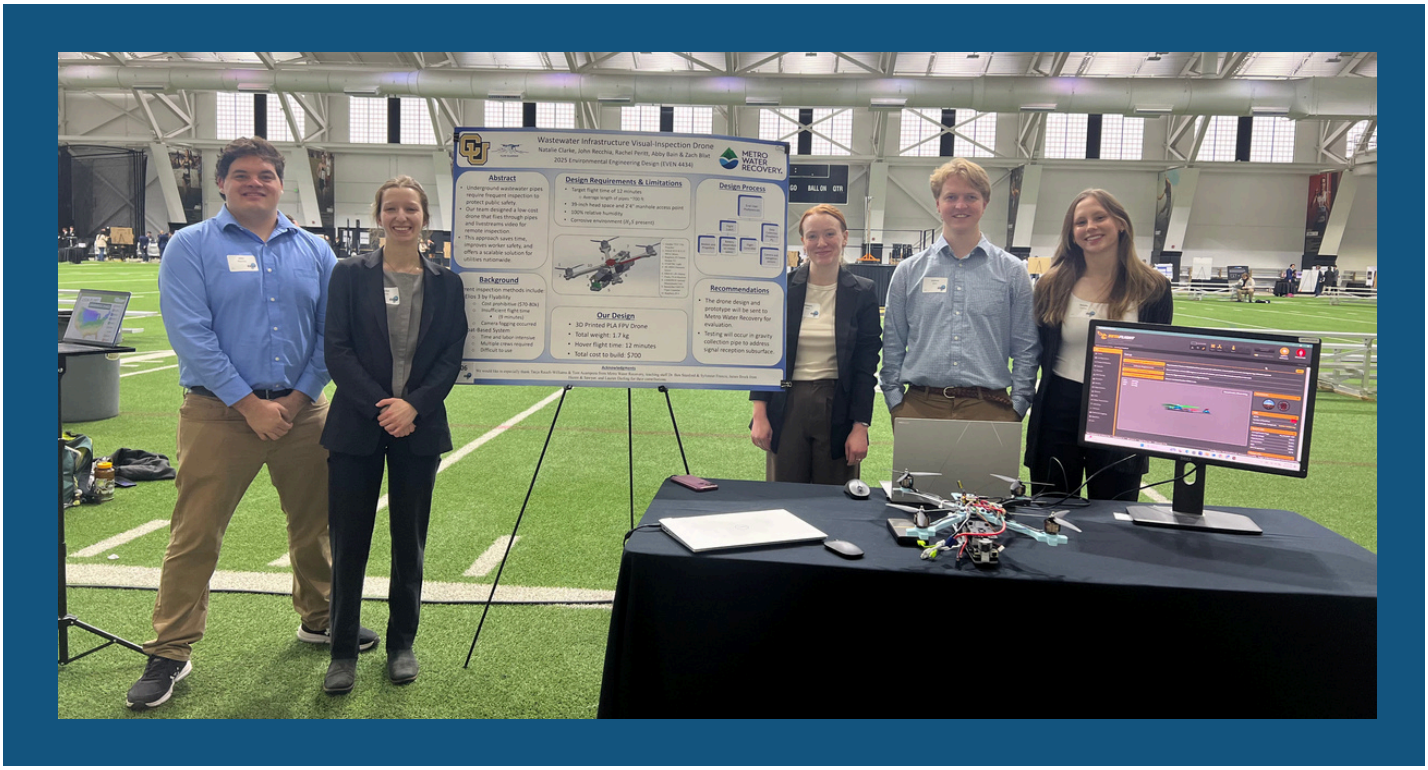
METRO WATER RECOVERY.

THE CONNECTOR

Quarterly Updates



The CU engineering team stands alongside their drone prototype during the CU Engineering Projects Expo. Left to right: John Recchia, Rachel Perritt, Abby Bain, Zach Blixt, and Natalie Clarke

Student-Built Drone Offers Hope for Underground Pipe Inspections

Jack Hennes
Communications Specialist Senior

Inspecting underground water infrastructure is critical to successfully perform Metro's mission. Metro's Transmission Division completes this task by visually inspecting underground transmission pipes and conduits. Searching through dark, corroded pipes is a unique challenge. With a massive 817-square-mile service area, this work is painstaking and cumbersome with current technology.

The team currently lowers a Mud Master rover—a 200-pound device equipped with a closed-circuit television (CCTV) camera—into the transmission system to capture footage and perform visual inspections. For sections with too much flow, the team must then switch to a boat.
(continued, page 2)

Student-Built Drone, cont.

Lowering and maneuvering the boat is a time-consuming process. Cables are threaded through the pipelines to maneuver the boat through the water and capture video footage. To make matters worse, the footage captured is low quality, as these devices meander through tunnels of darkness. Footage must then be uploaded to a computer station to be reviewed, which is a time-consuming process of its own.

A team of environmental engineering students from the University of Colorado-Boulder embarked on a project to solve these problems head on. The team, which included students Natalie Clarke, John Recchia, Rachel Peritt, Abby Bain, and Zach Blixt, designed a low-cost drone prototype to fly through pipes and livestream video footage for remote inspections. 3D printed and running on a Raspberry Pi micro-computer, the drone was customized and fabricated by the team. While not yet operational, its high-definition camera could capture quality video imagery that can be viewed in real time.

“Creating a physical prototype was a great experience,” Clarke remarked. “Fabrication was also a great student learning opportunity. By doing this ourselves, we were able to solve problems and save money.”

The project demonstrated many potential benefits to Metro. The team’s problem statement focused on a drone that would allow Metro employees to more easily inspect subsurface infrastructure, reduce maintenance costs, and improve worker safety.

The team received the Judge’s Choice for Most Innovative Technology Award at the 2025 Engineering Projects Expo on April 25th. Each project entered into the competition aimed at tackling real-world engineering problems. For the CU team, the hope is that this project will pave the way for an innovative solution to Metro’s visual infrastructure inspections.

Metro served as the sponsor of the drone prototype project. The team worked with Tom Acampora (Transmission Operations Manager) and Tanja Rauch-Williams (Chief Innovation Officer) to understand the unique problem and to refine the drone prototype. “We were able to do a lot more on this project than we normally would with Metro’s support,” Peritt added.
Moving forward, the team will send the drone prototype to Metro for evaluation. Acampora is also optimistic that the use of low-cost drones—such as the DJI Mini—could help Metro perform routine inspections of collection pipes. With some minor modifications like propeller guards, mini drones may indeed be the answer to Metro’s woes of pipeline inspections in the collections system.

Metro Water Recovery

2026 Annual Charges for Services
June 17, 2025

REGULATORY COMPLIANCE AND COST CHALLENGES DRIVE 2026 BUDGET

On June 17, 2025, the Metro Water Recovery (Metro) Board of Directors approved Metro's 2026 Annual Budget, which includes Annual Charges for Service (Annual Charges) revenues of $184,390,813. The 2026 Annual Charges are 8 percent higher than the 2025 Annual Charges.

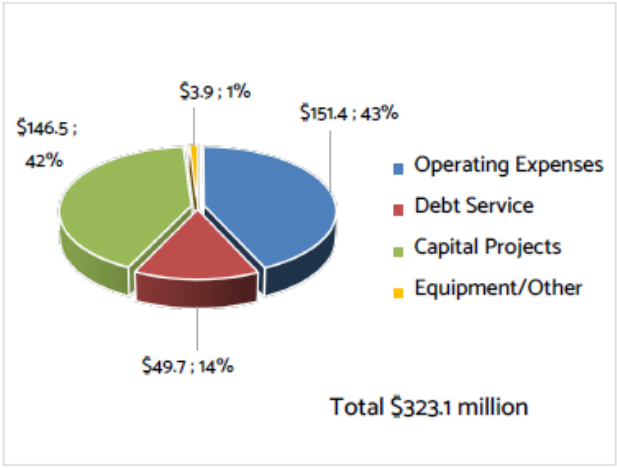
Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility

Metro Water Recovery provides services to approximately 2.2 million people at a projected cost of 71 percent less than comparable U.S. utilities in 2026.

Annual Charges are the main revenue source for Metro and represent the fees charged to Connectors in the Denver metropolitan area to clean wastewater and recover resources. Annual Charges are based on the quantity and quality of the water cleaned for each Connector. More information can be found on Metro's website here.

The increase in Annual Charges for Service in 2026 is primarily in response to increases in operating costs and extensive capital expenditures, which are essential to meet regulatory, infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement, and capacity requirements. Capital and debt expenses are partially offset in 2026 by the rate of growth in the region, which increases the connections to Metro's system and associated Sewer Connection Charge (also called tap fee) revenue.
The 2026 increase in Annual Charges for Service revenues amounts to an increase of approximately $15 per household per year compared to the Annual Charges for 2025. According to the National Association of Clean Water Agencies 2023 Index, the average household in Metro's service area is projected to pay 71 percent less for wastewater treatment in 2026 than households served by comparable utilities around the country.

Metro staff continually strives to keep Annual Charges as low as possible, implementing cost-effective measures throughout the organization. Due to necessary increases in costs for wages and benefits, materials and fuel, chemicals, outside services, and utilities, the 2026 Annual Budget includes an operating expense budget 5.9 percent higher than the 2025 Annual Budget. Budgeted capital expenditures for 2026 are approximately $25 million higher than the budgeted capital expenditures for 2025.



Operating expenses and planned capital expenditures make up 85 percent of the 2026 expenditures.

Annual Charges, continued

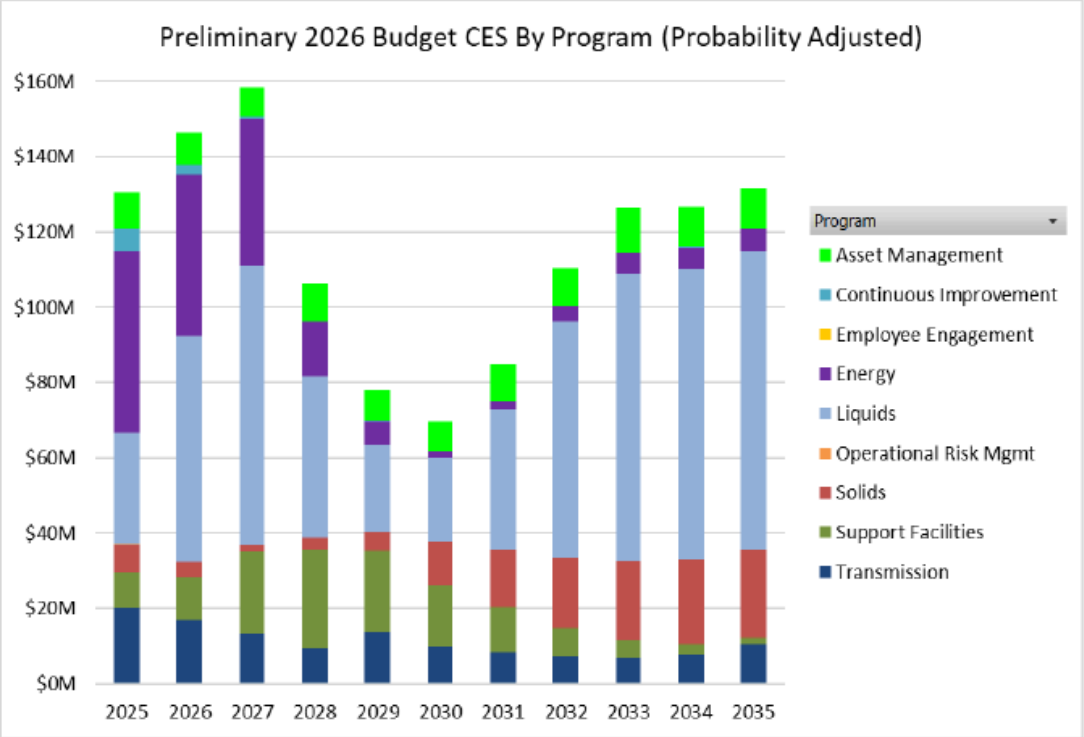
The Cost of Clean Water

Metro's stated Mission is "to protect the region's health and environment by cleaning water and recovering resources." As part of that Mission, Metro must follow federal and state environmental regulations which drive most of its treatment costs. Following these regulations is not optional. Violations carry substantial financial penalties and would be in direct conflict with Metro's Mission. The Board is tasked — with the help of staff — to weigh the options and determine how best to provide funding to enable Metro to meet treatment requirements in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Cash Flow Assumptions

To ensure Metro is prepared to meet future requirements, Metro undertakes extensive long-range planning measures, looking 20 years or more into the future. The 2026 Annual Charges for Service revenues are based on the Cash Flow Schedule prepared for the 2025–2035 interim planning period. The most noteworthy Cash Flow Schedule assumptions include the following:

1. Metro expects to spend around $1.3 billion on capital projects through the end of this planning period. These projects are necessary to:
   - Replace or rehabilitate aging facilities.
   - Provide increased capacity.
   - Meet more restrictive regulatory requirements.
   - Increase operational efficiency.



Planned capital expenditures over the next 11 years total approximately $2.3. billion. This number has been adjusted to approximately $1.3 billion to account for probability of occurrence and timing assigned to individual projects on the *Ten-Year Capital Expenditure Schedule* (CES).

Annual Charges, continued

2. Operating expenses amount to approximately $2.0 billion in the Cash Flow Schedule.
3. Sewer Connection Charge Account revenues are projected to be $691 million over this period. Sewer Connection Charges are fees for capital facilities paid by new homes, commercial businesses, and other facilities connecting to the sanitary sewer system. Sewer Connection Charge revenues are expected to remain stable.
4. Over this period, $419 million will be transferred from the Sewer Connection Charge Account to the General Fund Capital Project Account to pay for improvement and growth-related capital projects, and $272 million will be used to pay for growth-related debt service costs.

Metro's actions are in the best interest of the 2.2 million people in its service area. The regulatory agencies and general public continue to have great expectations for Metro to reduce public health risks and protect the environment. Even with a more regulated and expensive future, Metro will continue to meet these expectations.

ABOUT METRO WATER RECOVERY

Metro was formed under Colorado law in 1961. Metro is the largest resource recovery and clean water agency in the Rocky Mountain West, serving approximately 2.2 million people in an 817 square-mile area. In partnership with 65 local governments comprised of cities, counties, sanitation districts, and water and sanitation districts, we clean millions of gallons of water every day to be suitable for agriculture, aquatic life, recreation, and water supply. Metro's service area includes Denver, and parts of Adams, Arapahoe, Douglas, Jefferson, and Weld counties.

Rated at 220 million gallons per day (MGD), Metro collects and treats approximately 129 MGD at the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility (RWHTF), located northeast of downtown Denver. The Northern Treatment Plant (NTP), located northwest of Brighton, has a 28.8 MGD capacity and started operation in October 2016. The NTP processed approximately 8 MGD in 2024.

More information can be found at Metro website: https://www.metrowaterrecovery.com/.

The area of Metro's Municipal Connectors are shown in color above.

EMERGING ISSUES REPORT
MAY 2025

FROM SEWERS TO SURVEILLANCE

EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH INSIGHTS FROM METRO WATER RECOVERY

The COVID-19 Pandemic was a challenge for most of the world's population; however, an unexpected resource for tracking COVID-19 emerged. In 2020, the nightly news began featuring stories about universities tracking COVID-19 outbreaks through the sewer lines on campuses. While wastewater surveillance has been around for a long time, the COVID-19 Pandemic amplified its importance by introducing it to the public.

Figure 1 A Metro Water Recovery Laboratory Research Scientist fills sample containers for wastewater surveillance submittal

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "Wastewater surveillance is the strategic sampling and testing of wastewater and analysis and interpretation of the collected data (such as presence or concentration of pathogens, physical-chemical measures) to better understand disease within a community." This important field provides a more visible link between wastewater treatment plants and the communities they serve.

Biobot Analytics, a private entity located in Fort Collins, has been analyzing wastewater samples for various substances for years before the pandemic. In 2020, they began working with researchers at Colorado State University to quantify COVID-19 in wastewater. Metro Water Recovery joined the project in 2020 to provide influent wastewater samples from the Denver Central, Platte River, and Clear Creek interceptors (Figure 1), as well as expertise in correlating the COVID-19 data back to the population the samples came from.

In 2023, as the methods became more refined and cheaper, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) took over coordination of COVID-19 testing in Colorado. Metro Water Recovery partnered with CDPHE to continue providing this valuable resource to health departments. All along, CDPHE has been sharing the data on their publicly facing dashboard at: https://cdphe.colorado.gov/COVID-19/wastewater. Due largely to the success of the COVID-19 program, CDPHE and Biobot have been expanding their wastewater surveillance programs to include additional analytes.

CDPHE EXPANSION

In 2024, CDPHE expanded their wastewater epidemiology program to include influenza A and B, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), enterovirus D68, and monkeypox. Most recently, they have added measles to better assess the outbreaks finding their way into Colorado. The addition of testing for these pathogens in wastewater allows CDPHE to inform hospitals and other health agencies when outbreaks are occurring, often before a rise in patients is seen in hospitals. In 2024, Metro Water Recovery also began sending samples from the Northern Treatment Plant (NTP) to CDPHE for the same analyte list as the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility samples to add this new population to the dataset. By consistently providing influent samples to CDPHE twice weekly, Metro provides a valuable resource to the communities it serves.

CDPHE DATA

While it's nice knowing Metro Water Recovery provides this excellent resource to its communities and the data are publicly available, the data and findings have not been directly communicated with Metro partners until now. CDPHE's dashboard allows anyone to access the data at any point in time and see recent trends on any of the tested pathogens (Figure 2).

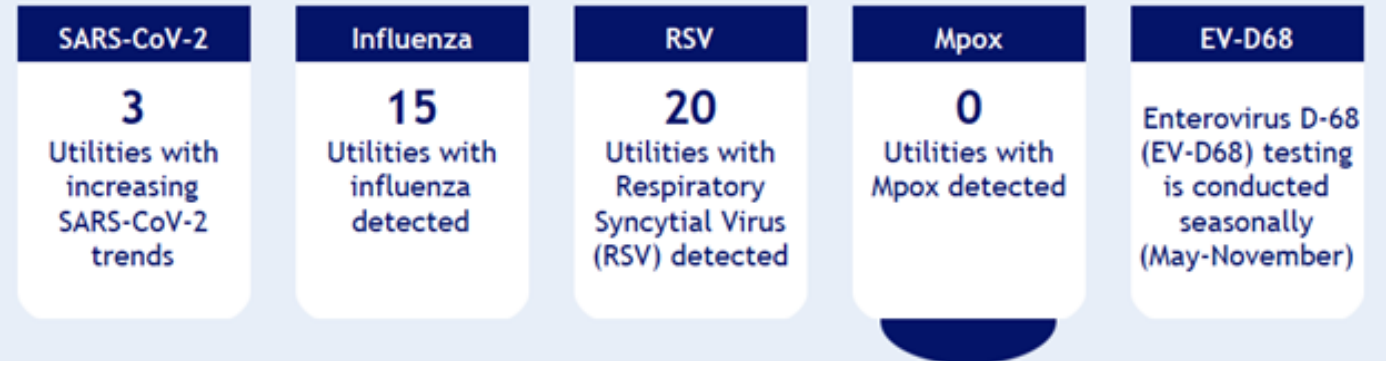


Figure 2 Pathogen overview data from CDPHE's public dashboard, accessed April 3, 2025

From the dashboard, individual pathogens can be selected for detailed information on the pathogen trends in the wastewater for each of Metro Water Recovery's interceptors for which samples have been submitted (Clear Creek, Denver Central/Platte River, and the NTP). CDPHE recently updated the dashboard, clarifying trend categories to "no detection," "detection," and "persistent detection." Individual pathogens can also be viewed for their viral concentration over time (Figure 3). Check out the public dashboard to access these data and more.

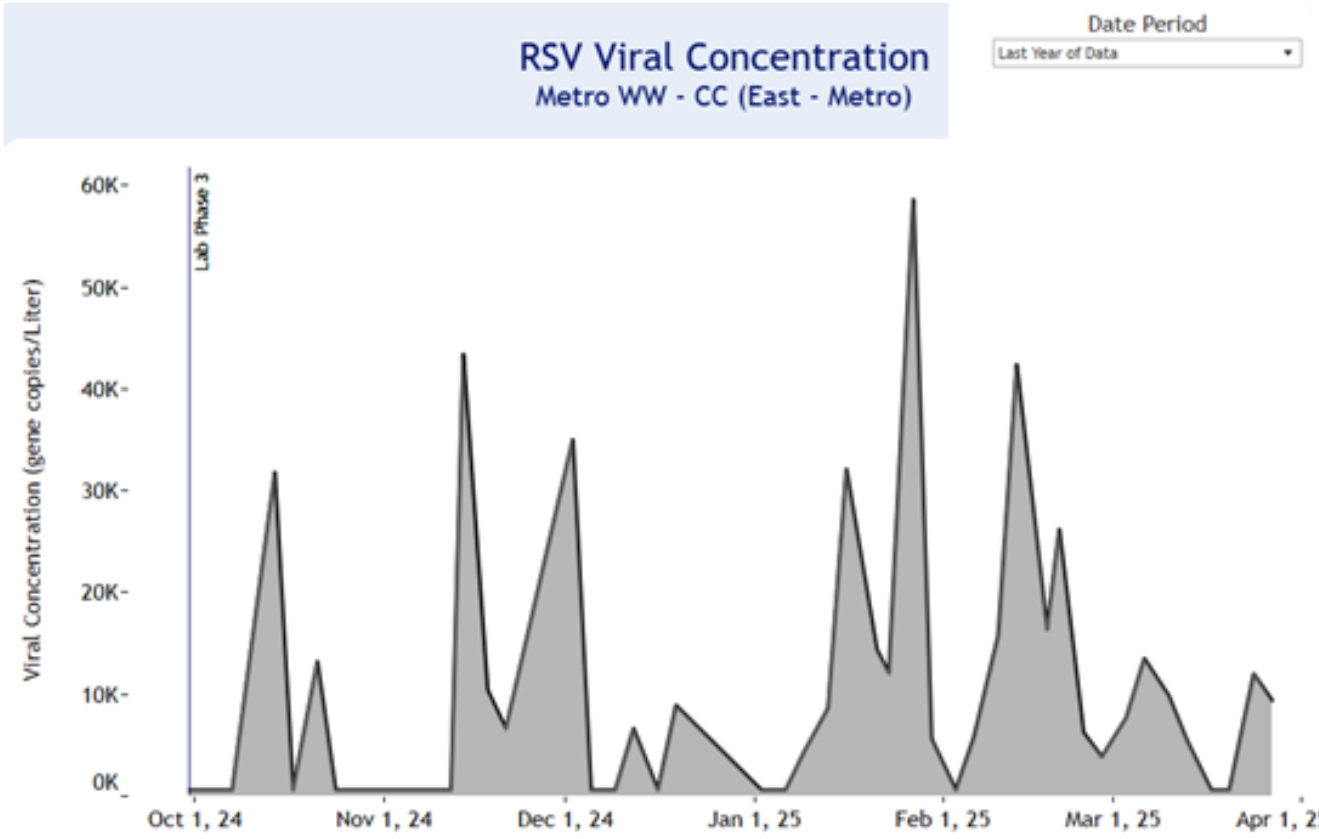


Figure 3 Viral concentration of RSV in Metro Water Recovery's Clear Creek collection area since October 2024.

BIOBOT Expansion

In addition to the ongoing work with CDPHE, Metro Water Recovery again teamed up with Biobot in 2024, this time in partnership with the Denver Department of Public Health and Environment (DDPHE). With funding from Denver's Opioid Abatement Settlement, Metro's Denver Central and Platte River influent samples are combined and being sent to Biobot to be tested once a week for illicit drugs including fentanyl, cocaine, nicotine, xylazine, and methamphetamines and their metabolites. Composite samples are collected from Sunday morning through Monday morning to capture weekend trends. Metro's contribution to this project was highlighted in a February 19, 2025 Colorado Public Radio story (click here to read).

BIOBOT/DDPHE DATA

Equally interesting data comes from DDPHE's illicit drug studies. However, DDPHE has not made their data publicly accessible at this point, as they are still working to understand the results and provide accurate context. Recently, DDPHE shared some of their results with Metro Water Recovery. Shared data show the estimated cocaine consumption for the population represented by the Denver Central and Platte River interceptors from July 2024 through March 2025 is on a slight decreasing trend, along with the national average. As DDPHE better understands their results, more information will likely be shared with the public. In the meantime, Metro can access results for internal use purposes.

NEXT STEPS

Metro Water Recovery continues to be approached by researchers in many fields interested in using wastewater surveillance to better understand population dynamics in the Denver Metropolitan Area. As wastewater surveillance continues to expand, Metro must be clear and open about the benefit these samples provide to the community. Building trust between Metro and the community creates stronger connections and lasting relationships. In support of this vision, CDPHE is working on alternative methods to share their data with the public. For more information on viewing these data or sharing them with the people living in your service area, please contact Laboratory Research Manager Natalie Love at NLove@MetroWaterRecovery.com.

Water Week Wrap-Up, 2025

Erin Bertoli
Governmental Affairs Liaison

Chief Executive Officer Mickey Conway, Chief Legal Officer Emily Jackson, and Governmental Affairs Liaison Erin Bertoli represented Metro in Washington, D.C., for this year's Water Week National Water Policy Fly-In, held on April 8 and 9. They were joined by Sarah Niyork from the South Adams County Water & Sanitation District, who attended both as Metro's Board Chair and as a Colorado water utility. Water Week is an annual event hosted by Water Environment Federation and National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

Mickey, Emily, Erin, and Sarah joined other water professionals from across the nation to help advance key water policy priorities. Topics that received special focus throughout the week were to:

- ensure ongoing federal funding for water infrastructure
- address water affordability
- increase support for laws and regulations that hold polluters--not local water utilities--responsible for costs associated with cleaning up PFAS

In addition to being part of the conversation, Mickey, Emily, and Erin had Metro-specific goals to accomplish with federally elected officials that represent Metro's service area. By attending the event, we worked to:

- Create an understanding of who Metro Water Recovery is, what it does, and what its relationship is with connectors and other communities with which Metro engages.
- Establish Metro as a credible, reliable partner, and resource for wastewater issues as well as broader climate, energy, water quality and air issues.
- Discuss PFAS and the impact of current proposals on Metro's business operations.

Learn more about the event on the Water Week website.

Meet Metro's Directors

Alyse Greenberg
Communications Specialist Senior

Metro Water Recovery is honored to have 40 directors on its Board. These directors provide guidance and leadership for Metro while representing the interests of you, our connectors. We'd like to introduce our newest director

Cat Olukotun
Appointed to the Board in 2025
Connector Agency: City of Aurora

On joining Metro's Board: Cat stated, "I'm a numbers person, so it fascinates me when money is connected to real things in the real world. Talking about numbers and linking them to Metro projects is really exciting."

Colorado Legislative Session--By the Numbers:

120 = Number of days in the sessions, in accordance with the Colorado State Constitution
773 = Bills and resolutions introduced in 2025
773 = Bills reviewed by Metro's Government Affairs Liaison
68 = Bills evaluated by Metro's Legal Team
44 = Number of bills that Metro actively followed

Legislative Wrap-Up, 2025

Erin Bertoli
Government Affairs Liaison

The first regular session of Colorado's 75th General Assembly concluded on Wednesday, May 7 with 773 bills being introduced this year. The most dominant feature of the 2025 session was the over $1 billion state budget shortfall. This meant that very few bills with a price tag were successful this year. In addition to the budget shortfall, several major policy issues consumed significant amounts of time. there was debate and discussion on the Colorado Labor and Peace Act, which Governor Polis vetoed. The bill that would have made changes to this existing law. There was high activity related to changes to Colorado's workers' compensation laws. Governor Polis signed the bill but also established a workgroup for ongoing conversations related to workers compensation in Colorado.

One of the most notable changes in the 2025 session was the increasing tension between Governor Polis and many members of the Democratic party. This shift will be monitored to see how it will impact the 2026 legislative session. The theme of the 2025 legislative session was the increasing acceptance of the need for a special session. Nearly all agreed that it is increasingly likely that legislators will be called back to the Capitol to balance the state budget in relation to changes at the federal level and decreasing state revenue.

Metro Water Recovery's government affairs team worked diligently to support policy issues of greatest importance to Metro and our connectors. Legislation related to water quality saw the most action this year, along with many proposals that were unsuccessful but will come back in future legislative sessions.

Water Quality

Senate Bill 305 – Water Quality Permitting Efficiency
Metro has been working diligently on behalf of our ratepayers since 2022 to address the systemic issues within the Water Quality Control Division's permitting process. Senate Bill 305 takes steps in the right direction in several key areas. While the bill will not "solve" all the issues with the permitting process; it establishes a structure for ongoing conversation, increases transparency, and hopefully brings about improvements.

There were two additional bills that were focused on water quality this legislative session, but neither of them made it through the process.

Legislative Wrap-Up, continued

House Bill 1099—Water Quality Data Standards attempted to standardize what types of data can be used to set a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) limit. This is the second time this bill has come forward from proponents on the Western slope. The bill had a significant fiscal impact and was killed in committee. **Senate Bill 137—Greenhouse Gas Credits for Water Quality Projects—** was seeking to allow an owner or operator of a green infrastructure project to sell or trade greenhouse gas credits in the air quality control commission GHG trading program. The bill had a significant fiscal impact and was killed in committee.

Things to watch in future legislative sessions:

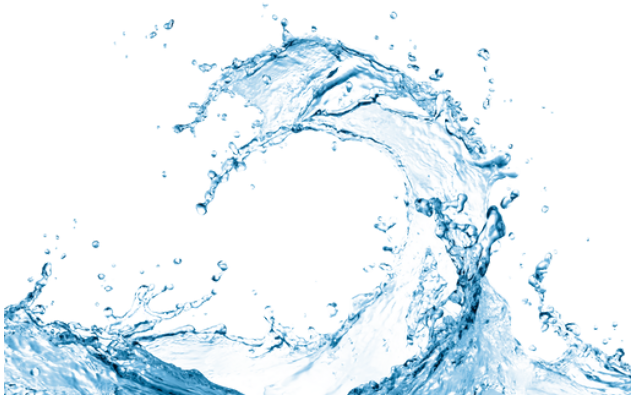
Incentives for data centers located in Colorado. This issue came up later in the legislative session and faced strong headwinds. Metro will continue to advocate for the ability of local governments to permit businesses within our service area.

Colorado Open Records Expansion. Governor Polis vetoed a bill that would have given more time for public entities to response to CORA requests. The topic will return in future years.

Independent Ethics Commission (IEC). A bill to expand the number of entities subject to IEC investigations died in committee. The topic will return in future years.

Evaluating the impact of regulation. Senate Bill 306 was passed by the legislature and will require the Air Quality Control Commission to undergo a performance audit. There will most likely be legislative proposals in future years to understand the full impact of regulations being issued by the State of Colorado.

As always, if you have any questions, please reach out to Erin Bertoli, Governmental Affairs Liaison: ebertoli@metrowaterrecovery.com



Unlocking Thermal Energy from Wastewater: Metro's Vision for Effluent Temperature Compliance and Regional Sustainability

Metro Water Recovery is advancing a long-term, programmatic approach to wastewater thermal energy use, to meet temperature regulations and enable new opportunities for clean energy in the region.

The Challenge Ahead: Effluent Temperature Compliance

Metro Water Recovery is facing a significant regulatory challenge: effluent discharges from the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility (RWHTF) and Northern Treatment Plant (NTP) must meet stringent new temperature limits. Temperature reductions of up to 8°C may be required at the RWHTF due to the high volume of discharge —130 million gallons per day (mgd) — and limited dilution capacity in the South Platte River — particularly during winter.

Extensive evaluations indicate conventional cooling methods (e.g., cooling towers) are costly and land and energy intensive, making them undesirable, if not impractical, at the scale required. Additional demonstrations and pilots of wastewater thermal energy use (WTEU) systems confirm the technical feasibility of wastewater heat recovery but also show the limitations of scale —both systems installed to date by Metro Water Recovery in the transmission system and on-site at the RWHTF reduce effluent temperatures by less than 0.2°C.

To achieve a greater reduction in effluent temperature — and to contribute meaningfully to Connector, state, and organizational clean energy and decarbonization goals — Metro Water Recovery is moving beyond campus-scale projects and exploring regional solutions, which could benefit many users in the service area.

Chief Innovation Officer Tanja Rauch-Williams points to the heat pump in the OSCB Heat Recovery Shed, with the heat exchanger behind her, to the right of the broom.

What We've Done so Far: Laying the Groundwork

Metro Water Recovery has already implemented two relatively small-scale WTEU systems as early examples of sustainable infrastructure for regional demonstration at the National Western Center and for a Metro campus demonstration at the RWHTF's Operations Services and Control Building (OSCB). In parallel, Metro and its partners have been exploring larger-scale WTEU opportunities within the service area, including the Denver Ambient Loop project discussed in Innovation Quarterly 18.

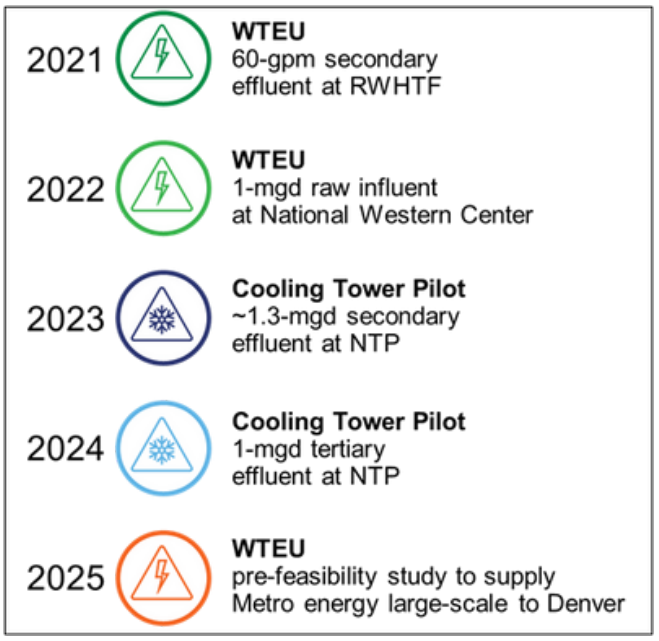
Metro Water Recovery gained support from the Colorado Governor's Office in late 2024 and from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) for an integrated planning approach to address both temperature and nutrient compliance in a coordinated manner.

Going Bigger: Programmatic Approach to Large-Scale Thermal Energy Recovery

Metro Water Recovery has been building its portfolio of strategies to reduce effluent temperature in a sustainable manner for several years (see infographic). The next step for Metro is to evaluate district-scale heat recovery opportunities in the 100+ megawatt (MW) range.

This marks a significant organizational shift from demonstration-scale projects to the pursuit of a coordinated, program-level strategy capable of delivering thermal energy through large infrastructure projects with regional partners for regulatory, climate, and possible financial benefits.

Projects of this magnitude require thoughtful coordination across agencies; a strong understanding of enabling policy and regulatory frameworks; and careful consideration of viable business models for ownership, operation, and funding. To that end, Metro Water Recovery has several foundational efforts already underway, summarized below.



Metro's effluent temperature reduction projects to date.

Key Next Step

Metro Water Recoverywill evaluate the implementation of a large-scale effluent heat recovery project to provide renewable energy to downtown Denver and surrounding developments—marking a meaningful and scalable step toward effluent cooling and regional climate goals.

WTEU Program Foundational Components

Partnership Development

- Metro Water Recovery is collaborating closely with the Colorado Energy Office (CEO); City and County of Denver (Denver); Denver's Office of Climate, Sustainability and Resiliency (CSAR); Xcel Energy (Xcel); local developers; and Denver Water to explore shared energy use and infrastructure Opportunities.
- To advance this collaboration, Metro Water Recovery convenes a monthly stakeholder working group and plans to work toward a formal Partnership Coalition to collaboratively evaluate win-win solutions later this year.

Technical Feasibility Study Funding Secured

- Metro Water Recovery was awarded a grant from CEO to launch a first-phase technical pre-feasibility study for recovering thermal energy from the RWHTF effluent at large scale and delivering this energy to end users in downtown Denver.
- This study builds on recent work by CSAR and Xcel and directly supports the state's clean heat policy planning and implementation goals.

State-Level Support

- Metro Water Recovery's leadership has promoted WTEU as a possible key to meeting Colorado's Climate and energy policy priorities.
- Metro Water Recovery has received visible support from the Governor's Office, reinforcing its role as a regional innovator and sustainability leader.

What Comes Next:
Preparing for Large-Scale Energy Supply

Expanding Metro Water Recovery's WTEU initiative into a program could position Metro —and the region — as North American leaders in sustainable building infrastructure and wastewater energy recovery. The program can secure financial benefits to Metro's ratepayers long-term through monetizing wastewater resources. Even phased implementations can unlock new revenue opportunities, provide reliable energy supplies, and demonstrate national leadership.

Scaling up heat recovery from the effluent at the RWHTF and across the service area raises new technical, financial, and institutional challenges and opportunities for which Metro Water Recovery is preparing a programmatic approach. To ensure long-term success and flexibility, this approach will lead Metro and its partners to systematically understand and strategize critical pieces of this complex undertaking, including technical, business, regulatory, and others.

WTEU Program Focus Areas

Technology Solutions

- Metro Water Recovery's Technology and Innovation team has screened North American technology providers and is actively engaging and visiting with operational systems in Europe and Canada to incorporate global best practices.
- The upcoming pre-feasibility study is a critical first step in outlining the technical and financial requirements and success factors for Metro Water Recovery's large-scale effluent heat recovery system.
- Following this study, staff plans to initiate a conceptual design phase in 2026 to begin shaping a viable project configuration.

Director of Technology and Innovation Dan Freedman (on right) learns about Vienna's (Austria) 60-MW WTEU system, which feeds into the city's district energy system (May 2024).

Board of Directors Engagement

Board of Directors engagement and regular updates will be essential as Metro Water Recovery moves from feasibility studies into implementation. With executive guidance and the leadership of Metro's internal Energy Manager, Metro can deliver on its regulatory requirements while advancing a once-in-a-generation clean energy opportunity.

Business Model Evaluation

- Metro Water Recovery must evaluate and determine its desired role and responsibility in the regional energy market — whether as direct energy provider, wholesale energy provider, infrastructure owner, or strategic regional enabler — while maintaining a focus on long-term value and ratepayer financial protection.

Partnership Facilitation and Policy Engagement

- Metro Water Recoverycontinues to collaborate with state and local agencies to help shape enabling policies and facilitate partnerships essential for long-term project viability and regional impact.

WTEU Program Focus Areas, Cont.

Regulatory Readiness

- A screening study in 2025 will examine the governance, legal, and permitting framework necessary to support communal thermal energy networks and business models within Colorado's regulatory landscape.

Utility Management Consulting Support

- To guide this multi-year effort, Metro Water Recovery plans to retain a utility management consultant with expertise in thermal energy networks to support internal teams and Metro's Energy Manager to oversee the coordinated development and implementation of the program.

Electrical Transmission Substation - PAR 1265

Jack Hennes
Communications Specialist Senior

In 2022, work began to prepare the site as part of Work Package #1 (WP1)

Led by Ben Ruder, Principal Civil Engineer, PAR 1265 aims to bring transmission-level electrical power to the Robert W. Hite Treatment Facility (RWHTF). This project will improve electrical reliability to RWHTF and provide sufficient electrical capacity for the anticipated improvements over the next 20 years.

Once complete, the transmission-level service will increase system reliability beyond 99.9%, increase total electrical capacity for near and long-term loads, and reduce electricity costs by approximately 15% annually. The substation site is located east of the Administration Building at RWHTF.

The project is broken down into two work packages:

- **Work Package #1 (WP1)** includes site improvements to raise the switchyard and substation site above the floodplain (now complete). WP1 also includes design costs and the procurement of transformers and cabling.
- **Work Package #2 (WP2)** includes construction of the new Metro substation and construction of new power distribution raceways connecting the substation to distribution facilities. WP2 also includes modifying the power distribution facilities and installation, startup, and testing of five transformers.

The cost associated with additional long-lead items in WP1 and execution of WP2 (construction costs, engineering services, permitting, administrative costs, and contingency) is $65,000,000.

Click the image to the left to read the 2024 Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR)

Click the image to the right to view the 2024 Year-In-Review.

Introducing Breana Winters
Community Engagement Specialist

Breana Winters joined the Strategy and Communications team in February 2025 as Community Engagement Specialist and supports internal and external engagement and outreach. After graduating from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana with a B.S. in Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, she started in environmental education. She has spent the last 10 years in the environmental nonprofit sector engaging neighbors in volunteerism and community-centered design of open spaces including green schoolyards and trails.

Most recently, she worked as the Associate Director of Community Programs at the High Line Canal Conservancy. She managed volunteer stewardship and community ambassador programs and led a community advisory committee. Breana is passionate about connecting people to nature and collaborating with communities to address local environmental issues. She is excited to be a part of Metro's work to understand community needs and advance shared environmental priorities.

Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, she moved to Denver in 2016 to be closer to the Rocky Mountains because she loves hiking and spending time outdoors. When she is not in the mountains, she enjoys traveling with her partner, singing karaoke, dancing, and being home with her two cats.

Community Volunteer Day

with Metro Water Recovery and
The Greenway Foundation

AUGUST 2
9 AM – 11 AM
GLOBEVILLE LANDING PARK

Come be part of something that gives back to both people and planet.

Join Metro Water Recovery and The Greenway Foundation for a hands-on volunteer day dedicated to caring for our river and community! We'll be rolling up our sleeves to restore Globeville Landing Park, a vital green space along the South Platte River. Volunteers will help with trash removal and beautification efforts to protect wildlife habitat and improve this beloved riverside park for everyone. Light breakfast will be provided.

This is a great opportunity to:

- MAKE A VISIBLE IMPACT ON YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT
- CONNECT WITH YOUR COMMUNITY
- SPEND MEANINGFUL TIME OUTDOORS

This event is FREE, but registration is required. It is designed for volunteers 12 years of age and older, but volunteers of all ages are welcome.

EVENT INFO

METRO WATER RECOVERY.

THE GREENWAY FOUNDATION

July 1, 2025

Annual Charges Summary

Click the links below for Metro's one-pagers on charges:

Rules and Regulations

Annual Charges Planning

Annual Charges Process

2025 Annual Charges Summary

Dates to Remember

- **06/16/25:** 2Q Annual Charges Due
- **06/17/25:** Metro Board of Directors Meeting
- **07/15/25:** Metro Board of Directors Meeting
- **07/15/25:** 2Q Sewer Connections
- **08/19/25:** Board of Directors Meeting
- **09/15/25:** 3Q Annual Charges
- **09/16/25:** Board of Directors Meeting
- **10/21/25:** Board of Directors Meeting