

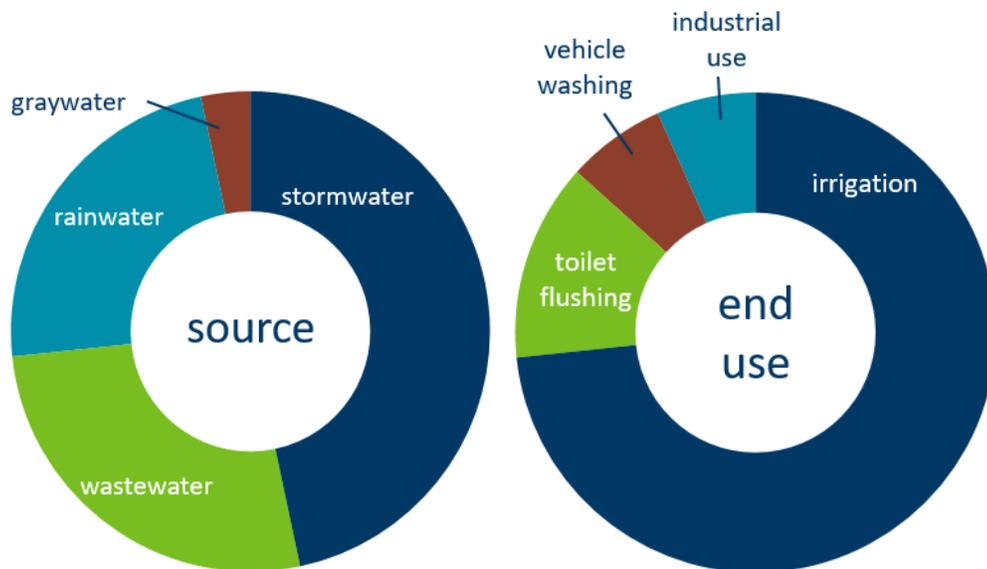
Advancing Safe and Sustainable Water Reuse in Minnesota

THE 2018 INTERAGENCY WORKGROUP REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Water Reuse in Minnesota

Water reuse will be an increasingly important part of managing Minnesota’s water resources as demands on our water supplies continue to grow due to population increases, urbanization, climate change, increased irrigation and industry growth. Water reuse is happening across Minnesota. The main reason cited for many water reuse projects is to conserve water, but implementers also say saving money and meeting environmental regulations are reasons for water reuse.

Common types of water reuse projects in Minnesota by source and end use (estimations)



Purpose of Report

Despite increasing interest in water reuse, there is no comprehensive statewide guidance or policy on water reuse to ensure that projects are safe and sustainable.

In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature directed the Minnesota Department of Health to “prepare a comprehensive study of and recommendations for regulatory and non-regulatory approaches to water reuse for use in the development of state policy for water reuse in Minnesota”. The Clean Water Fund provided funding for the report.



From left to right, images from Pixabay, Dwight Burdette, and Robert Lawton

Report Highlights

State agencies, the Metropolitan Council, the University of Minnesota (the Workgroup) and stakeholders in the water reuse community worked together to develop a report that serves as a foundation for advancing safe and sustainable reuse in Minnesota.

The full report is found at [Advancing Safe and Sustainable Water Reuse in Minnesota](http://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/cwf/2018report.pdf) (www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/docs/cwf/2018report.pdf).

Highlights include:

- Information about water reuse in Minnesota (examples of projects, current management, and challenges and opportunities)
- Examples of water reuse policies and management in other states and nations
- Ways to manage human health risks posed by water reuse
- Stakeholder input, including survey results and meeting summaries

Recommendations and Next Steps

The Workgroup developed Minnesota-specific recommendations in the report:

- Create an expanded workgroup with practitioners, advisors and stakeholders** to continue development of standards and programs.
- Prioritize research needs and integrate ongoing research** to address questions about reuse.
- Define roles and responsibilities** to oversee and monitor water reuse.
- Establish an information and collaboration hub on the web** to share information and resources.
- Develop a risk-based management system** to determine if regulation or guidance is needed.
- Develop water quality criteria for a variety of reuse systems based on the log reduction target approach for pathogens** to manage human health risks.
- Resolve unique issues related to graywater reuse** to determine the feasibility of expanding graywater reuse.
- Provide education and training** to support water reuse.

Minnesota state agencies will work to communicate the information in the report and advance the recommendations. The water reuse community and decision-makers will be an important part of moving the effort forward.

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