**Excerpts from State Water Plan on Implementation Tracking and Reporting:**

* 1. **Measuring Success During Implementation**
     1. **Tracking Against the Plan’s Goals**

Connecticut’s water values drive Connecticut towards measurable objectives, goals, and actions. The primary goal of the Plan is to provide balanced water use for all needs.

The objectives to support this goal are included in the list below, which was developed by stakeholders using the 17 requirements in the enabling statute as guidance. The list is intended to summarize the goals, but is not necessarily inclusive of the numerous objectives embedded into the planning framework:

* + - * Provide reliable and resilient supply for all uses
      * Promote public health and quality of life with high quality water
      * Protect the environment
      * Manage water cost-effectively for all users
      * Develop an implementable plan
      * Prepare for uncertain future climate
      * Use science and data to recommend action
      * Involve Connecticut citizens in water management

The Plan is a living document; the Plan and the supporting work of the WPC will be updated periodically to respond to the changing conditions and improved information in the State. Part of this work will require measuring success for each action and adapting over time. Future iterations of the Plan will evaluate progress made, and identify or refine future actions.

The Plan and its goals and objectives and 17 Statutory Requirements will be tracked by the WPC or its designee to ensure implementation. The WPC may propose a planning schedule that requires a scheduled update.

The Plan portrays Connecticut’s home rule, improves planning and regulatory processes, and explores funding —all while honoring Connecticut’s water values and ensuring that water, the State’s most valuable natural resource, is protected and available for generations to come. To that end, the Plan’s success will be measured by whether the following measurable objectives are achieved through implementation of the following actions:

### Provide reliable and resilient supply for all uses

The success of the Plan will ultimately be measured by whether there continues to be reliable and resilient water supply in the future. With increased efforts on conservation, land use and reuse, Connecticut can balance its water use for all needs.

### Promote public health and quality of life with high quality water

Connecticut has the highest quality of source water in the nation. The continued reliance on class A water for drinking will ensure this goal is met.

### Protect the environment

The environment and recreation are critical in a water plan, and have strong support in Connecticut. Strong environment is critical to the economy and way of life.

### Manage water cost-effectively for all users

In order to manage water cost effectively, the State will look at funding sources for implementation of the Plan. In order to support this objective, the State should investigate options to raise additional revenue. Funds can further support conservation, water supply, environment, education and outreach, and other implementation priorities.

Connecticut, like many states, faces challenging fiscal conditions, not only for water infrastructure, but most other parts of the State budget. In order to address the water infrastructure fiscal need, the legislature can explore the use of existing grants and loans for implementation of the Plan so that the partners can achieve financing. Issuance of green bonds could support large scale environmental and recreational projects.

### Develop an implementable plan

An implementable plan relies on measurable actions, to be achieved in a timely fashion. It also requires an organizational structure that can move the Plan forward with adequate funding.

### Prepare for uncertain future climate

An adaptive management plan will assist in preparing for all future uncertainties, including climate change. Climate uncertainties can be taken into account in both demand and supply analysis.

### Use science and data to recommend action

A data driven water plan that relies on science and data can ensure that appropriate actions are recommended and implemented.

### Involve Connecticut citizens in water management

Connecticut’s Plan sets out to significantly improve the level of public awareness and engagement regarding water issues statewide. The Plan will expand outreach and education efforts that engage the public to promote well-informed community discourse and decision making regarding balanced water solutions. This work will be collaborative and include state, local and federal partners.

## **Tracking Against the 17 Statutory Requirements**

The State will undertake the following critical actions to make progress in achieving the measurable objectives and addressing important water priorities identified in the Plan. The referenced section further explains the context for each of the critical actions compared to the 17 Statutory Requirements. Each statutory requirement may require one or more of the following:

**Legislation:** Although most actions are intended to work within existing state and federal laws, some actions require state legislation. Legislative actions require the legislature to pass a bill changing language in or adding language to the Statutes. Prior to developing legislative proposals necessary to implement the Plan, the WPC and associated agencies will conduct a thorough review of what is needed. Any legislative recommendations will be evaluated in light of administration priorities and the State budget. To the extent that legislation is necessary to execute the Plan, legislative recommendations will be offered in concert with the phased implementation of the Plan over subsequent years.

**Programmatic:** Programmatic actions can be accomplished within existing authority and existing state programs. Some of these actions may require additional staffing or funding, which will need to be addressed prior to implementation. To that end, legislation may be needed to appropriate adequate resources.

**Policy:** Policy actions can be accomplished through a rule-making or other processes to give the WPC the authority to accomplish these actions. Other state agencies may also need to adopt policies, as noted below. Resources to develop and implement the policy changes will need to be identified.

**Pathways Forward:** Pathways Forward actions indicate actions that will involve several parties or sub-committees that develop a plan or make recommendations to the WPC or other appropriate authority. Pathways Forward actions can be accomplished within existing statutory authority. Resources to address the process actions will need to be acquired prior to implementation

The following table represents the action needed for each of the statutory requirements. Programmatic and policy actions have been handled together.

**Table 6-2. Tracking Progress towards the Statutory Requirements**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **17 Statutory Requirements** | **Programmatic**  **/Policy** | **Pathways Forward** |
| 1. | Identify quantities and qualities of water that are available for public water supply, health, economic, recreation and environmental benefits on a regional basin scale (SW and GW) | **X** |  |
| 2. | Identify present and projected demands for water on a state-wide and regional basin scale | **X** | **X** |
| 3. | Recommend the utilization of the state's water resources, including surface and subsurface water, [for their greatest benefits] in a manner that balances public water supply, economic development, recreation and ecological health | **X** | **X** |
| 4. | Recommend steps to increase the climate resiliency of existing water resources and infrastructure |  | **X** |
| 5. | Recommend technology and infrastructure upgrades, interconnections and such major engineering works or special districts which may be necessary, including the need, timing and general cost thereof | **X** | **X** |
| 6. | Take into account desired ecological, recreational, agricultural, industrial and commercial uses | **X** |  |
| 7. | Inform residents of the state about the importance of water stewardship and conservation | **X** | **X** |
| 8. | Establish guidelines and incentives for consumer water conservation | **X** |  |
| 9. | Develop a water reuse policy with incentives for matching the quality of the water to the use | **X** | **X** |
| 10. | Meet data collection and analysis needs to provide for data driven water planning and permitting | **X** | **X** |
| 11. | Take into account the ecological, environmental, public health and safety and economic impact that implementation of the state water plan will have on the state | **X** |  |
| 12. | Include short and long-range objectives and strategies to communicate and implement the plan | **X** | **X** |
| 13. | Seek to incorporate regional and local plans and programs for water use and management and plans for water and sewerage facilities in the state water plan | **X** |  |
| 14. | Promote intra-regional solutions and sharing of water resources | **X** |  |
| 15. | Develop strategies to address climate resiliency including the impact of extreme weather events | **X** | **X** |
| 16. | Identify modifications to laws and regulations needed to implement recommendation |  | **X** |
| 17. | Take into account desired ecological, recreational, agricultural, industrial and commercial uses | **X** | **X** |

Note: *Table 1-2 How the Plan Addressing the 17 Requirements* is a related component to this table’s information, including tracking during Plan development.

# Next Steps

## What to Track

The Plan encompasses many goals and strategies for water planning in the state. In order to prevent being overwhelmed with the various components and continuous nature of water planning, it is recommended that priorities for early completion milestones are developed and a means to track progress, with interim status updates, are important.

Earlier in this Section, the 17 statutory requirements are listed to compare during implementation. The implementation of the Plan must always circle back to those requirements.