

DROUGHT RESILIENCY AND PREPAREDNESS

Tempe’s water portfolio remains sufficient to meet demands despite continued shortage on the Colorado River and more than two decades of drought in the southwest. Tempe has been prepared and responded to the drought by taking the following actions:

- Maintaining a diverse water resources portfolio
- Proving a Designation of Assured Water Supply
- Investing in infrastructure and reducing reliance on groundwater
- Empowering effective customer water usage through the Water Conservation Program

Colorado River shortage

In 2024, the Colorado River is forecast to be in a Drought Contingency Plan Tier 1 shortage. While this shortage affects Central Arizona Project (CAP) water supplies, it is not anticipated to significantly reduce Tempe’s allocation of CAP water.

Although CAP water supplies typically make up 6% of Tempe’s water supplies, it is an important source of water to meet demands. Tempe continues to prepare for shortages on the Colorado River through investments in infrastructure and resources and continued conservation that leads to greater water use efficiency.



Visit tempe.gov/water to view the Colorado River shortage fact sheet.

Tempe drought status

Tempe is in Stage 0, also called Watch, of its Drought Preparedness Plan, which includes monitoring drought conditions, investing in local use of reclaimed water and increasing customer’s understanding of water resources challenges to strengthen Tempe’s resiliency.

100 Years of assured water

The City of Tempe received a Designation of Assured Water Supply from the Arizona Department of Water Resources by demonstrating legal and continuous access to sufficient water supplies to support current and future water demands in Tempe and Guadalupe for **100 years**.

Kyrene water reclamation facility

All wastewater currently produced in Tempe is put to beneficial use at the regional 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant in Phoenix. Starting as early as 2025, Tempe will once again treat wastewater at the Kyrene Water Reclamation Facility and utilize the reclaimed water locally for various beneficial purposes, including meeting industrial demands and recharging into the local aquifer.

Investing in your water

Tempe has invested millions of dollars in water resources and infrastructure to create and maintain the resilient and diverse water portfolio we have today. Tempe continues to invest in your water security through appropriately funded efforts and projects that are supported by water and wastewater rates.



Tempe water treatment plant, 1977

\$200M
Over five years
Water Treatment Plant
asset maintenance
and upgrades

\$130M
Over five years
Distribution
system projects

\$82M
Over five years
Kyrene Water
Reclamation Facility

\$53M
Over five years
New production wells
and well reconstruction
and treatment

\$18M
Over five years
Recharge wells and
associated infrastructure

\$7M
Over five years
Studies for new sources
of renewable surface
water supplies



Tempe water treatment plant, 2021

Water Conservation Program

Tempe's Water Conservation Program investments in 2022

- **\$63,000** approved for 300 water efficiency and conversion rebates.
- **\$134,000** budgeted for water conservation grants.
- **1,000** staff hours associated with more than 330 water consultations and audits.

Tempe's Water Conservation Program is effective, measurable and customized to our customer's needs.

In 2022, residents
and businesses
have taken action
that will conserve
an estimated

114
million
gallons
of water.

39
households
upgraded their irrigation
systems with smart and
efficient technology.

124
CUSTOMERS
upgraded
188
toilets.

92
customers
converted
165,350 square feet
of grass.

338
customers
received water
consultations.

17,218
customers
received leak
alerts.

1,537
customers registered
for the WaterSmart
customer portal.