

Upper Smoky Hill Regional Advisory Committee
Goals & Actions Plan
Draft Revisions

Goal #1

Work with agencies to identify areas within the region that have similar aquifer characteristics and establish long-term use levels that will extend the useful life of the aquifer in those areas until 2070.

Action Steps:

1. Support implementation of the Wichita County LEMA submitted by Groundwater Management District No. 1 (GMD 1).
2. Support implementation of the Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability Project (GRASP) RCPP that was recently approved.
3. Continue to support enrollment in the Wichita County WCA.
4. Provide recommendations to GMD 1 for additional LEMAs based upon the information developed by KGS for the proposed revision of Goal #1.
5. Support KDA and other agencies in exploring options on ways to help citizen groups submit conservation proposals for LEMAs and other tools to the Chief Engineer.
6. Establish methods for local producers that will identify provisions within USDA farm programs that conflict with Goal #1. This would include crop insurance and loan programs.
7. Education:
 - a. Provide education and outreach to crop consultants concerning specific information on water use reductions and technologies available to achieve water conservation related to irrigated crop production.
 - b. Conduct seminars with local agricultural lenders to explain the purpose and implementation of Goal #1.
 - c. Publish an annual report for the region showing annual water use and trends in irrigation use and aquifer levels.

Goal #2

Encourage public water supplies within the planning region to complete studies of municipal water consumption and develop goals and plans for conservation by 2025.

Action Steps:

1. Assemble information about programs and grants that are available from state agencies and related entities (KWO, KDHE, Kansas Rural Water Association, KWRA) to evaluate water consumption and quality; identify sources of waste; plan and fund infrastructure improvements; and provide incentives to establish landscaping with lower water requirements.
2. Provide information and education on how rate structures can provide incentives for water conservation.
3. Education may include presentations to city governing bodies on remaining aquifer life and the process for acquiring water rights and changing beneficial use to municipal use.

Goal #3

Encourage the implementation of water conservation measures at confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs) in the region.

Action Steps:

1. Investigate and determine the most effective format for sharing information about water treatment and recycling systems with CAFO owners and managers. Note that this may include field days, online posts and videos, and presentations to companies and producer organizations.
2. Provide information on existing technology and vendors for water conservation systems: a. Water tank overflow treatment and recycling systems b. Water tanks and fountains that do not require continuous overflow c. Devices that regulate overflows based on water temperature
3. Determine the availability of programs and funding for research of technology for wastewater treatment and reuse for livestock consumption. This includes evaluation of livestock health impacts associated with such systems.