

Official Controls Water Toolkit

Overview and Testing

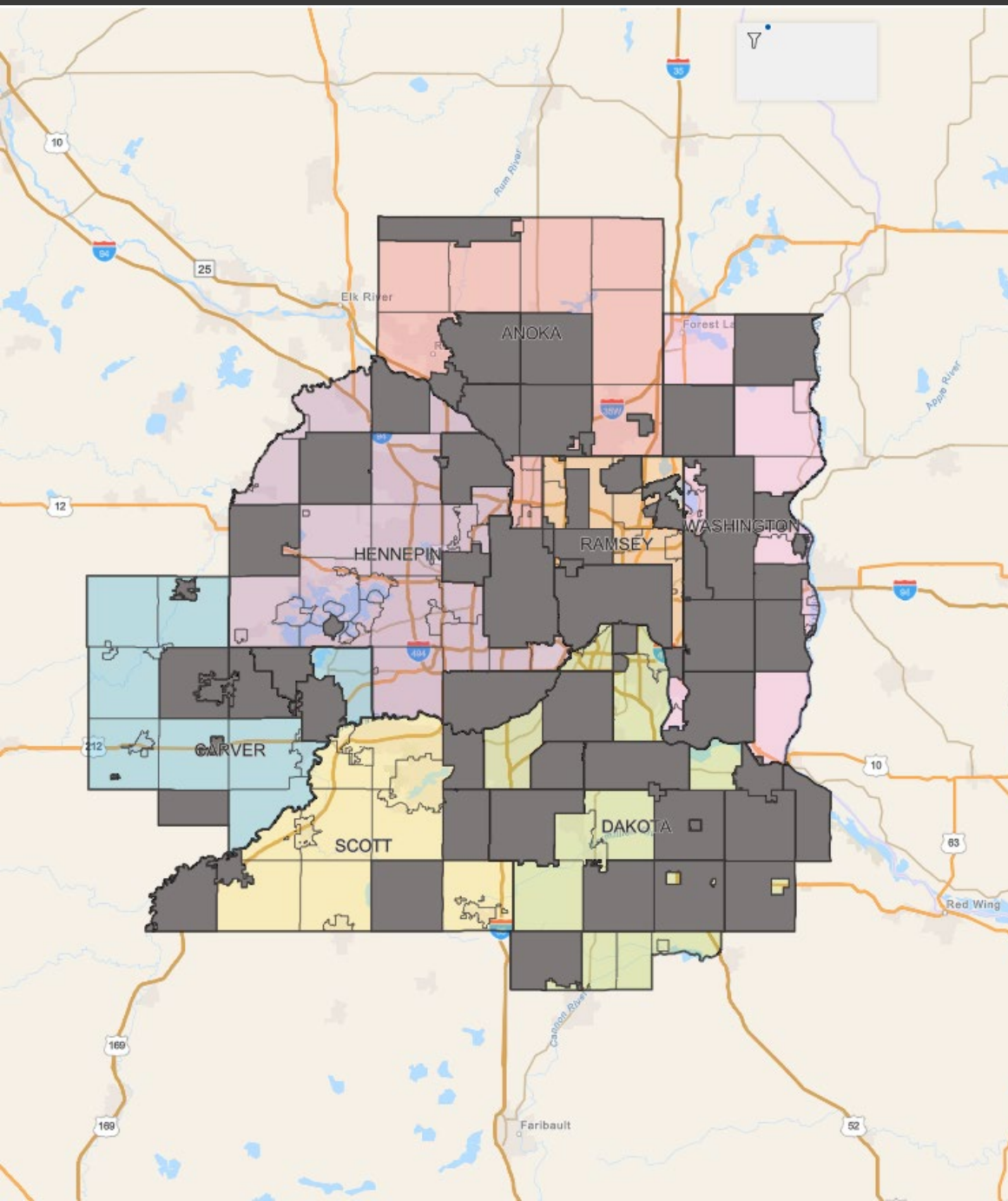


September 24, 2026

Lunetta Osterhaus

MAWSAC meeting

Overview



Overview

The Official Controls Water Toolkit is an interactive web map that lets users explore a variety of official controls communities are already using that align with regional water policies in the 2050 Water Policy Plan.

Purpose

1. Help City Planners understand what current strategies communities are utilizing that go above the minimum requirements for water in comprehensive plan updates.
2. Improve collaborative water planning, management, and operations practice across the Metro Area
3. Respond to community need through community collaboration, real-world examples, and more visual data.

Process



Methodology

- Data comes from 2040 Comprehensive Plans, Stormwater Management Plans (SWMPs), Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plans (SWPPPs), Subregional Water Supply Action Plans (2050 Water Policy Plan), Water Supply Planning Atlas, and city, county, and regional watershed websites.
- Currently, information can be filtered by 8 unique filters:
 - Imagine 2050 Community Designation
 - Focus Area (surface water, water supply, wastewater, land use)
 - Control Type (ordinances, policies, design guidelines, fiscal tools—grants, incentive programs, and capital investment plans-- and other regulations)
 - Regional Water Policy (12 Water Policy Plan Policies)
 - Population
 - Implementation (Action or Plan)
 - Green Steps Cities Rating
 - Number Rating

Criteria for Inclusion

Overview

1. **Plan:** Has the control been enacted or is in the process of being enacted?
2. **Collaboration:** Did the community work with other agencies, alone, or did other agencies intervene without the community's help?
3. **Innovation:** How unique is the policy?
4. **Data:** How much information is available on this control? Is it a goal, or a thorough report?
5. **Actionability:** How easy would it be for a community with similar resources to enact this control?
6. **Impact**
 - a) **Site Impact:** Does the control serve one site or many?
 - b) **Effectiveness:** To what extent did the control make change? I.e how much pollution was removed, how many wells were created, how many residents served, etc.?

[Home](#)

Water Toolkit

Official Controls Water Toolkit

Catchy Water Slogan!



The Local Controls Water Toolkit is designed to help city planners, policymakers, and water resource professionals explore how communities across the region are addressing water management and infrastructure challenges.

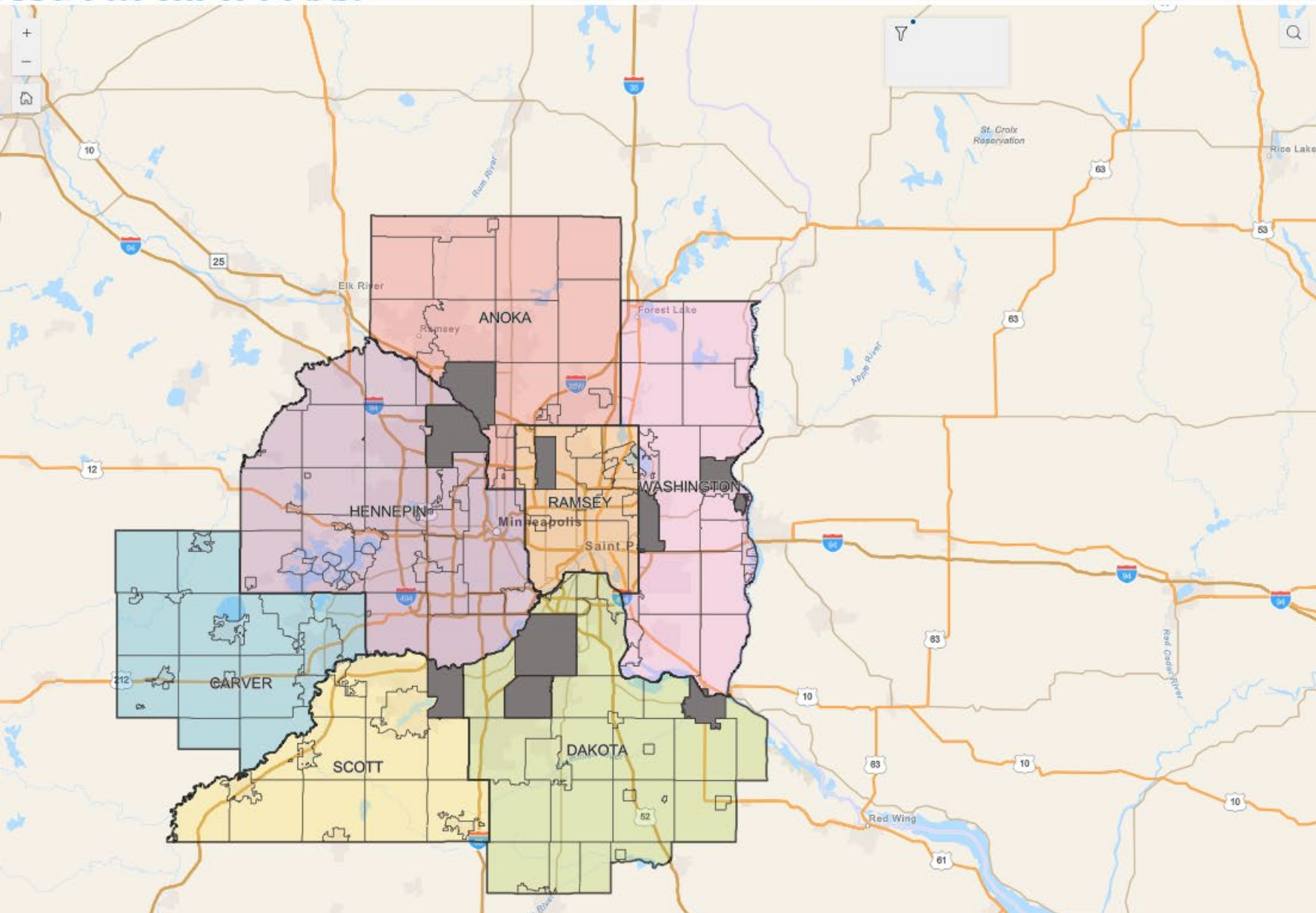
This tool allows users to easily search and compare local policies, projects, and funding approaches implemented by other cities. By applying filters such as community designation, water type, control type (e.g., capital improvement projects, grants, or programs), Metropolitan Water

Toolkit Walkthrough (2 of 3)



Local Controls Water Toolkit

[Home](#)[Learn More](#)[Water Toolkit](#)[Community Highlights](#)





Eagan ★

Dakota County | 67,534 People | Suburban | A

Official Control
Encourages the use of “green” building techniques in land development and encourages high performing and resilient building methods and materials in existing and new construction.

Impact
Conserves water through water-efficient practices while reducing energy use and CO2 emission to help adapt to climate change.

Focus Area
Water Supply, Surface Water, Land Use, Wastewater

Control Type
Policy

Regional Water Policy
Growth and Development, Climate Change, Conservation and Sustainability

Implementation
Plan

Hastings ★★

Dakota, Washington County | 21,000 People | Suburban | B

Official Control
Began constructing three new water treatment plants as part of the 30-year plan to replace aging infrastructure. The plants use Ion Exchange (IX) technology to remove nitrates from groundwater. A new connection to the municipal water system, which currently uses its own private well, will be completed in 2025.

Impact
Improves drinking water supply and quality.

Focus Area
Water Supply

Control Type
Capital Improvement

Regional Water Policy
Growth and Development, Climate Change, Conservation and Sustainability

Toolkit Walkthrough (3 of 3)

Learn More

About

The Local Controls Water Toolkit highlights some of the best examples of water controls communities have enacted across the Metropolitan Area. These examples include capital improvements, rebate programs, workforce development, land acquisition, and ordinances. While most of the examples were adopted by the community in question, many were enacted within the community through outside organizations like the Minnesota DNR, the Metropolitan Council, or regional watershed organizations.

The toolkit is *not* designed to be a comprehensive list of all controls enacted in the Metropolitan Area, but rather a list of some of the best examples. The Metropolitan Council recognizes that there are many other great controls that have not been listed.

If you believe a control should be included please contact Lunetta.Osterhaus@metc.state.mn.us



Looking Ahead



Next Steps

1. Review

Get feedback from Met Council Staff.

2. Revise

Update content to align with Met Council brand standards and accessibility standards.

3. Share

Begin beta testing by sharing the toolkit with community members.

4. Publish

Publish the toolkit on the Local Planning Handbook, so it can be accessed by all.

Questions



Questions:

- Do you know of any local official controls that ought to be included?
- How do you think this tool could help your agency/organization to promote actionable strategies at the local level to achieve sustainable water?
- What can be strengthened to make this a useful tool for water planners?