

Vision: To be the number one state in the nation in: Balanced, leading-edge environmental protection through technical and operational excellence and radical simplicity for customers and staff.

Mission: To protect and enhance public health and the environment of Arizona.

Agency Description: The Arizona Legislature established the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) as the state’s environmental regulatory agency under the Environmental Quality Act of 1986 to serve as a separate, cabinet-level agency to administer all of Arizona’s environmental protection programs. Since then, ADEQ’s enduring and vital mission is to protect and enhance public health and the environment of Arizona.

Executive Summary: ADEQ has identified five strategic issues for focus during this fiscal year to deliver tangible outcomes that benefit public health and the environment.

1. Too many drinking water systems and surface waters are not meeting federal standards and other drinking water systems are threatened by Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
2. Arizona passed a new Surface Water Protection Program and now must implement it.
3. Some systems of support are missing for sustaining a long term hybrid work environment.
4. Arizona stakeholders want ADEQ to assume primacy over the federal Underground Injection Control (UIC) and Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR) Programs.
5. Addressing Sunset Audit Findings will require additional funding.
6. The multi-decade drought has created stakeholder demand to strengthen opportunities and guidance associated with recycled water.
7. IJA presents a once in a generation opportunity to improve the Arizona’s infrastructure and environment.

* Tactics for strategy have been reformulated

Summary of Multi-Year Strategic Priorities

#	Five Year Strategy	Start FY	Progress / Successes
1	Address Known, Ongoing, Unauthorized Impacts (KOU) to human health and the environment.	2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mitigated 327 Known, Ongoing, Unauthorized Impacts since FY18. • Total mitigated includes 163 drinking water systems serving 636,882 people. • Completed 6 projects to mitigate surface water contamination.
2	Implement the Surface Water Protection (SWP) Program.	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FY21 HB2691 (ADEQ: Water Quality Program) signed into law by the Governor. • 2022 Rule Making continues to move forward. Program implementation current at 75% complete.
3	Improving staff support systems for a hybrid workplace.	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New strategy for FY23.
4	Assume primacy of UIC and CCR Federal Programs.	2020*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UIC primacy program enacted in FY18 by SB1494 (Environment; Underground Injection Control [UIC] Program). Program in 2022 is 85% complete • CCR Program enacted in FY22 by HB2411 (Coal Combustion Residuals Program). Program in 2022 is 33% complete.
5	Address audit findings and secure sustainable program funding.	2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADEQ continued for 8 more years. • Completed screening of Agency fee structures. • Addressed all audit findings not linked to funding in FY22.
6	Catalyze water recycling in Arizona (Breakthrough)	2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2018 - Eliminated prohibition on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). • 2022 - Legislature funded rule-writing for DPR.
7	Leverage IJA for a Healthy Environment	2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helped the Oil & Gas Commission apply for \$25M for orphaned well remediation and restoration. • Applied for \$650K to facilitate pollution prevention, \$1.1M grant to accelerate characterization and cleanup of Brownfields sites, \$127K for Clean Water Act Section 604(b) Planning.

Department of Environmental Quality

Fiscal Year 2023 Strategic Plan 2-pager Final

Next FY Focus

Strat	FY23 Annual Objectives	Objective Metrics	Annual Initiatives
1a	Mitigate more Known, Ongoing Unauthorized Impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative number of KOUIs mitigated. (goal: 382) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitate IJIA applications from eligible entities to Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) for PFAS remediation, lead service line inventories, and other IJIA/State Revolving Fund (SRF) Grants (Baseline + IJIA Grant/EPA SRF)
1b	Identify PFAS related on going unauthorized impacts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Net number of KOUIs (Net number is likely to increase based on sampling initiative). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sample over 1,000 public drinking water systems not covered under EPA monitoring rules. (WIFA/IJIA Grant) Take-back and replace program for PFAS-containing Aqueous Film Forming Foam (AFFF). (\$396K ERF)
2	Codify the State Surface Waters Protection Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent complete of fully implementing SWP program. (goal: 100% complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete the proposed rule package and publish for public comment (Baseline).
3	Stand up systems of support for a safe and engaged work force.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total Attrition (goal: 67) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement 10% increase in agency staff salaries (\$2.5M Appropriated Funds). Create and implement a Belonging & Remote Employee Retention plan. (Baseline) Standardize agency-wide field safety planning and implementation. (Baseline)
4a	Assume Federal Underground Injection Control Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent complete of primacy for the UIC program. (goal: 100% complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submit UIC primacy packages to EPA for approval. (\$6.4M WQFF) Negotiate approval with EPA (\$6.4M WQFF)
4b	Assume Federal Coal Combustion Residuals Program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent complete of primacy for the CCR program (goal: 60% complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete rule-making for program implementation and submit primacy package (\$1.1M SWFF) Negotiate approval with EPA. (\$1.1M SWFF)
5	Address auditor general recommendations from 2021 sunset and water quality audits and continue securing sustainable program funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of Water Quality Performance Audit and Agency Sunset Audit (2021) recommendations addressed (goal: Total 28 complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete analysis of all fees with 5 year projections with OSPB review. (Baseline) Conduct stakeholder engagement and complete rules for Hazardous Waste and Water Quality Fee Fund (WQFF) fees (\$6.4M WQFF). Develop solid waste rules to protect from PFAS (\$1.1M SWFF). Establish aquifer water quality standards for 5 of 8 pollutants (\$6.4M WQFF). Modernize the Impaired Waters Identification Rule to focus Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) effort (\$6.4M WQFF).
6	Develop Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) program (a.k.a. recycled water) (Breakthrough)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percent complete of fully implementing the DPR Program (goal: 40% complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with communications team to establish messaging for DPR (\$1.5M GF). Conduct large stakeholder engagement process including technical teams and policy teams (\$1.5M GF).
7	Leverage IJIA Funding to inventory orphaned oil & gas wells	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of Oil & Gas wells Inventoried (goal: 98 wells) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure and manage IJIA Funding. (\$25M Grant) Establish program in coordination with Oil & Gas Commission. (\$25M Grant) Initial assessment and inventory of abandoned wells. (\$25M Grant)