

# Texas Municipal Water Consortium

Access to engineering faculty at Texas public universities specializing in water systems.

Real-world testing to verify impacts of new applications in water conservation, leak detection and water supply.

Practical R&D to reduce utility risk and costs.

And it's free for Texas water utilities and authorities.

**Verifiability.** It's a challenge familiar to water providers evaluating conservation programs and vendor products.

Without hard data on how products perform in the real world — and how customers react to them — water planners struggle to accurately assess the impacts and value of new conservation equipment and behavioral programs hitting the market.

**Founded by The University of Texas System**, the Texas Municipal Water Consortium is modeled on extension services and utility field testing institutes such as AgriLife at Texas A&M and Pecan Street at UT.

The consortium will conduct real-world research trials of water supply, management and conservation solutions in homes and businesses across Texas. In these research trials, consortium testing professionals and university researchers will verify and quantify the performance of water conservation, leak detection and water supply tools.

Member utilities help define what is tested, and they share the results through monthly technical calls, biannual conferences and technical reports.



"Drought combined with population growth is creating unprecedented challenges for water providers. By testing conservation programs and vendor products in the real world, the Texas Municipal Water Consortium will give us the best possible information before acting and reduce the risks of going it alone."

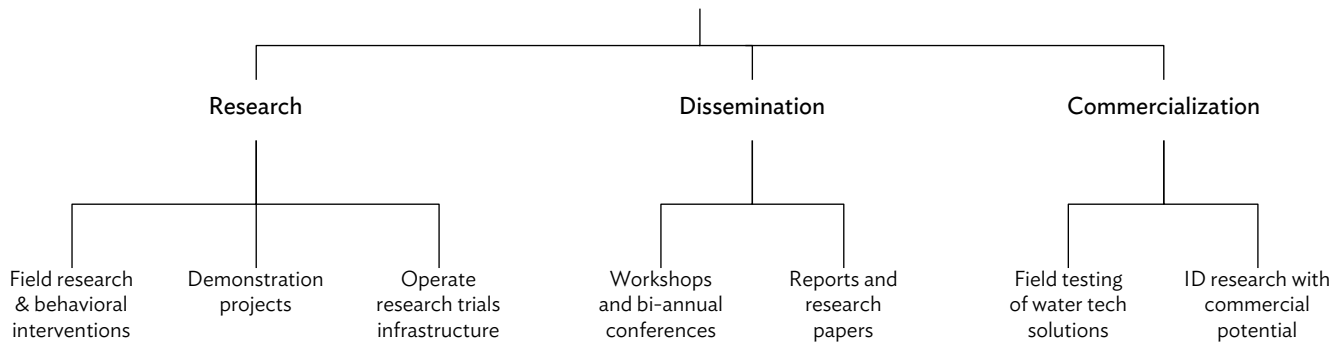
*Ed Archuleta, Director of Water Initiatives, University of Texas at El Paso; manager, El Paso Water Utilities, 1989-2013*



"Demonstration projects are vital to the widespread adoption of any innovative technology. Water planners need to know the risks of embracing new technologies; demonstration projects help planners make informed decisions."

*Susan Combs, Texas Comptroller*

# Texas Municipal Water Consortium



## Member Benefits

1. No risk – it's free, and it's voluntary
2. Access to research on customer side of the meter
3. Access to test results on vendor products
4. Get a head start on what it takes to land Prop 6 funds and pilot project funds
5. Free assistance in planning field trials and preparing applications for funding
6. Free access to UT researchers with expertise in municipal water systems
7. Influence UT System research priorities in the area of municipal water systems
8. Prepare UT engineering students for careers with water utilities

Membership in the consortium **is free for one year for all Texas water utilities and authorities** and \$100 per year after that.

## How is the Consortium unique?

There are many outstanding professional organizations serving the water utility industry. The Texas Municipal Water Consortium, however, has two unique qualities.

First, it is the only utility industry organization that **operates ongoing customer field trials** throughout Texas. (All participants are volunteers.) Members receive unique access to actual data on customer use and response to various products, messages and programs.

Second, members receive **direct access to engineering faculty from Texas' top public universities** led by UT's Center for Research in Water Resources.

## Texas Municipal Water Consortium

Headquartered at The University of Texas, the Texas Municipal Water Consortium is a nonprofit association of university researchers, water providers and companies.

The consortium conducts customer field trials and lab testing of water supply and demand products and behavioral tools. Members define performance specifications and share the results of this testing.

Its managing organization, UT-based Pecan Street Inc., operates the nation's largest R&D testbed for electric smart grid technologies and the world's largest research database on customer energy use. It also operates an advanced commercialization lab and provides field trial and product testing services to utilities, appliance makers and electronics firms. It is already conducting pilots of water use measurement devices in research trials.

**Contact Kathy Sokolic at [ksokolic@watertx.org](mailto:ksokolic@watertx.org) or (512) 782-9213 to join or for more information.**

## Texas Municipal Water Consortium

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[watertx.org](http://watertx.org) (launches Summer 2014)