

Water Policies Supporting Sustainable Agriculture



Local agriculture is under stress from economic, development, and other pressures. The City's guiding water principles and goals help to sustain agriculture:

- ◆ Promote the retention and preservation of water supplies that originate in the St Vrain Basin for use within the St. Vrain Valley.
- ◆ Work cooperatively with the St. Vrain and Left Hand Water Conservancy District, local irrigation companies and local water districts to implement strategies to preserve, retain and use native water supplies.
- ◆ Implement a water conservation policy that strives to achieve a sustainable use of our water resources.
- ◆ Strive to achieve water conservation that results in water demands at build out of the Longmont Planning Area that are 10 percent lower than current projections and pursue water development that does not rely on the dry up of agricultural lands.

Longmont has developed a number of programs with its municipal water system to support the sustainability of local agriculture which is under stress from economic, development and other pressures. Longmont supports the continued viability of agriculture in the Saint Vrain Valley through the following programs:

- ◆ Surplus Water Rental Program – The City annually leases a portion of its surplus water to area farmers.
- ◆ Historic Lease-back Program – The City leases water back to the original land it originated on until that land develops, enabling the property to stay in agricultural production as long as possible.
- ◆ Long Term Water Supply Agreements – Provide reuse water from Longmont's wastewater treatment plant to the agricultural community, with revenues used to stabilize the City's water rates and provide for additional potable water supply.

