THE AWS STANDARD AT A GLANCE

- A **framework**, with required (core) and optional (advanced) actions that defines responsible water stewardship
- Applicable at the **site-level** and requires **engagement in the catchment**
- Applicable to **all sectors** in all **geographies**
- Can be downloaded for **free** at: www.allianceforwaterstewardship.org
- Built through a 4-year **multi-stakeholder** process and represents the interests of the public sector, private sector and civil society
- Supported with a **verification** system that will allow sites and companies to issue credible claims
- 6 steps, **29 core criteria** (required), 29 advanced criteria (with points)
- Supported by comprehensive guidance that explicitly **links the Standard to the various water tools**
- **Aligns** with the European Water Stewardship standard

The AWS Standard (version 1.0): Core criteria

STEP 6: COMMUNICATE & DISCLOSE
- Disclose internal governance
- Disclose water stewardship performance
- Disclose efforts to address shared water challenges
- Drive transparency in compliance
- Increase water awareness

STEP 5: EVALUATE
- Evaluate performance, risks & benefits
- Evaluate incidents
- Consult stakeholders
- Update stewardship and incident response plans

STEP 4: IMPLEMENT
- Comply with laws & rights
- Maintain/improve water balance
- Maintain/improve water quality
- Maintain/improve status of IWRAs
- Participate in catchment governance
- Maintain/improve indirect water use
- Provide on-site WASH
- Raise concerns about shared water infrastructure

STEP 1: COMMIT
- Leadership commitment
- Water stewardship policy

STEP 2: GATHER & UNDERSTAND
- Define scope
- ID stakeholders
- Catchment water data
- Site water data
- Indirect water use
- Shared water challenges
- Understand and prioritize water risks & opportunities

STEP 3: PLAN
- Legal compliance system
- Water stewardship plan
- Incident response plan
- Notify authorities of plans
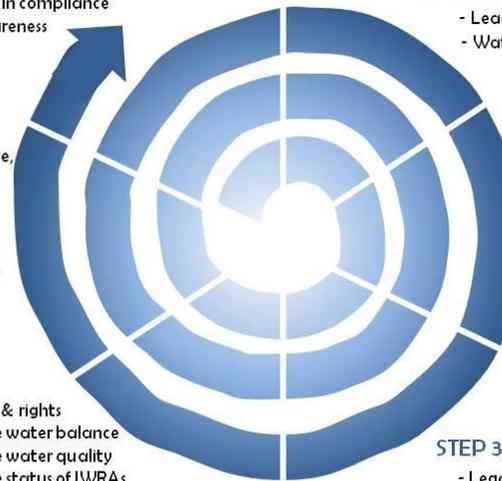
The AWS Standard is based on a process of continual improvement allowing users to begin their journey wherever they are, and adaptively manage water at the site, and engage stakeholders beyond their site to address their shared water challenges. 29 core criteria are supplemented with an additional 29 advanced-level criteria to encourage sites to strive even higher.

© Alan V. Morgan / AWS

WHY IMPLEMENT THE AWS STANDARD?

CREATES VALUE...FOR FREE
AWS is pleased to offer its standard, which comes with comprehensive implementation guidance and references, for free to users to help drive uptake. Implementation has been shown to save money, mitigate water risks and strengthen relationships making sure you capture your water value at risk.

GLOBALLY CONSISTENT, LOCALLY ADAPTABLE
The AWS Standard was designed to be applied to any site, in any sector, anywhere in the world. Accordingly, it offers global consistency with local adaptability helping to address the real shared water challenges you face in your catchment.

WORLD CLASS AND RIGOROUS
The AWS Standard was set using international best practice through a rigorous 4-year, multi-stakeholder standard setting exercise that engages hundreds of individuals from around the world. It is backed by many of the world's leading water organizations including WWF, The Nature Conservancy, CDP, UNEP, Nestle, Veolia, and many more.

THE ALLIANCE FOR WATER STEWARDSHIP STANDARD

Water affects us all.

Whether you are a business which relies upon water-generated energy, a community that counts on irrigated food, or a group that cares about freshwater species, water matters.

Recognizing that expectations around water for businesses and utilities continues to increase, the Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS) has developed *the global standard that outlines the expectations of responsible water stewardship*.

Built over the course of four years through a multi-stakeholder effort that employed the ISEAL Alliance's best practice codes, the AWS Standard is a framework with 6 steps, 29 criteria with indicators that define how to support good water governance, sustain water balances, achieve good water quality, and maintain those water areas of critical importance to species and communities.

The AWS Standard, which is intended to be applied at the site level, in any sector, anywhere on the planet, is supported with a verification system allowing implementers to provide evidence of responsible water stewardship to interested parties.

Using a governance structure that balances interests, AWS will continue to maintain the Standard's integrity. AWS also works with regional partners to ensure its system works in coordination with others, as well as integrates with other water stewardship tools.

As shared water challenges start to affect your organization, isn't it time you implemented responsible water stewardship?