



Wastewater Capacity

Goal: Restore and maintain the chemical and physical integrity of our region's waters to ensure clean water for residents and a balanced, healthy, ecological community.

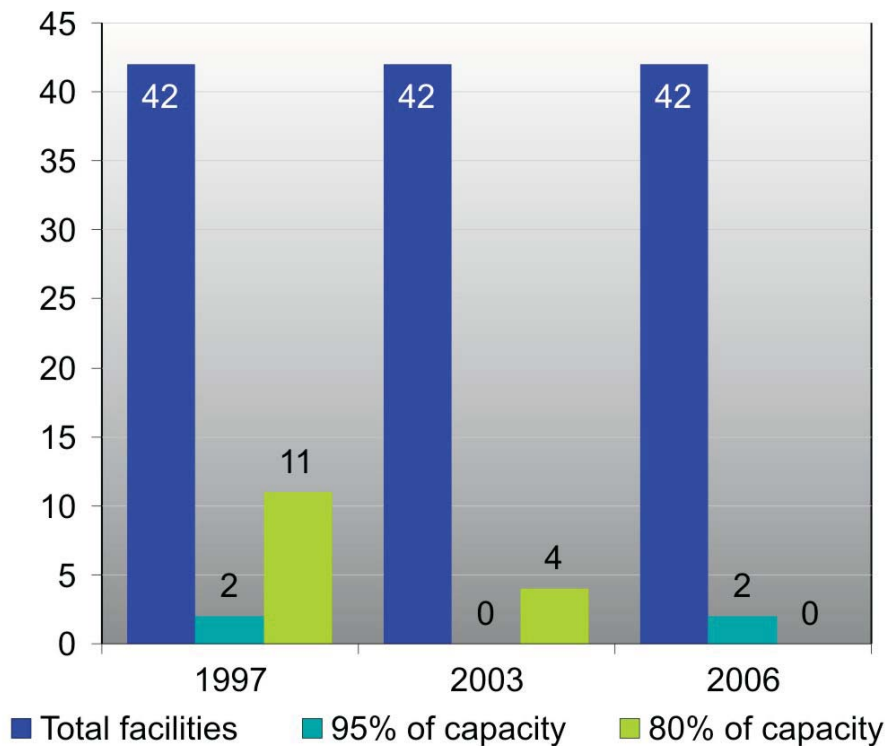
Policy: Identify an effective regional system of wastewater treatment facilities that meets federal and state standards.

Measure: Wastewater treatment plant capacity relative to growth needs.

Conclusions: Colorado's Water Quality Act requires that wastewater providers begin planning for expansion when they reach 80 percent of their capacity. At 95 percent of capacity, facilities must be under construction. By this standard, the region's facilities are keeping up with growth.

As shown in the chart, 11 of 42 major treatment facilities had reached 80 percent of capacity and two had reached 95 percent in 1997. By 2003, none of these facilities was approaching full capacity and only four were at the 80 percent "planning" level. In 2006, no facilities were at the 80 percent level but two facilities had reached the 95 percent level. Both facilities were in the process of constructing new capacity.

Wastewater Treatment Facilities Capacity Status



Action Steps: To ensure adequate wastewater treatment capacity for future growth, treatment facilities can take the following actions:

- Consider the impacts of growth on their service areas.
- Work with DRCOG to prepare utility plans that anticipate the need for future expansions. Such planning ensures that capacity is increased in time to handle growth.