**Rural Groundwater Working Group**

The Rural Groundwater Working Group is working on a strategy to get the Arizona Legislature to pass legislation to allow counties to manage their groundwater. AZTU is an active member of this group. We recognize that surface water and groundwater are inextricably connected. {Continue reading [**here**](https://files.constantcontact.com/80a60628001/ab101180-ca9b-4239-ba51-adf55258a86a.pdf)}

This Working Group believes that the severe water crisis in Arizona has resulted in the need for new policies and investments to protect this precious resource and are advocating for a new way of managing groundwater in rural Arizona: Local Groundwater Stewardship Areas (LGSA or Stewardship Area).

Stewardship Areas provide new funding and an opt-in, locally-adaptable approach to groundwater management. Stewardship Areas put local communities in the driver’s seat while the Arizona Department of Water Resources (ADWR) provides technical, financial, and regulatory support.