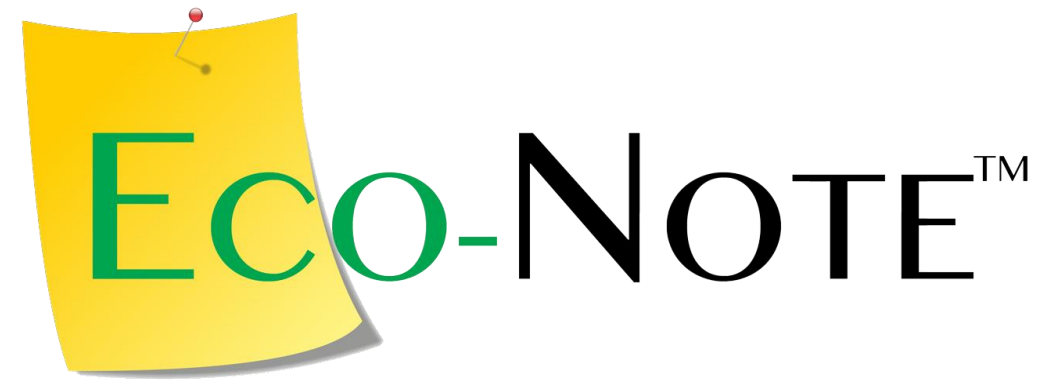# Online Landscape Water Budgets Engage Stakeholders, Enable Real-Time Usage Visibility and Monitoring, and Result in Improved Water Management

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Online Landscape Water Budgets Engage Stakeholders and Improve Water Management

What is a Landscape Water Budget? A Landscape Water Budget is the calculated amount of water a landscape will require in order to sustain the landscape, and is based upon the landscape's plant pallet, and the natural evapotranspiration that will occur on the landscape.

What are the Key Factors? Landscape Water Budget calculations require, at a minimum, the following Key Factors: 1) A given landscape of known area, 2) The plant pallet which occupies the landscape and associated ET Adjustment Factors (ETAFs), 3) ET data for the Landscape.

How do I Use My Budget? Your Water Budget is a calculated goal against which actual performance may be evaluated. In fact, more and more water districts are making water budgets the basis for water rates.
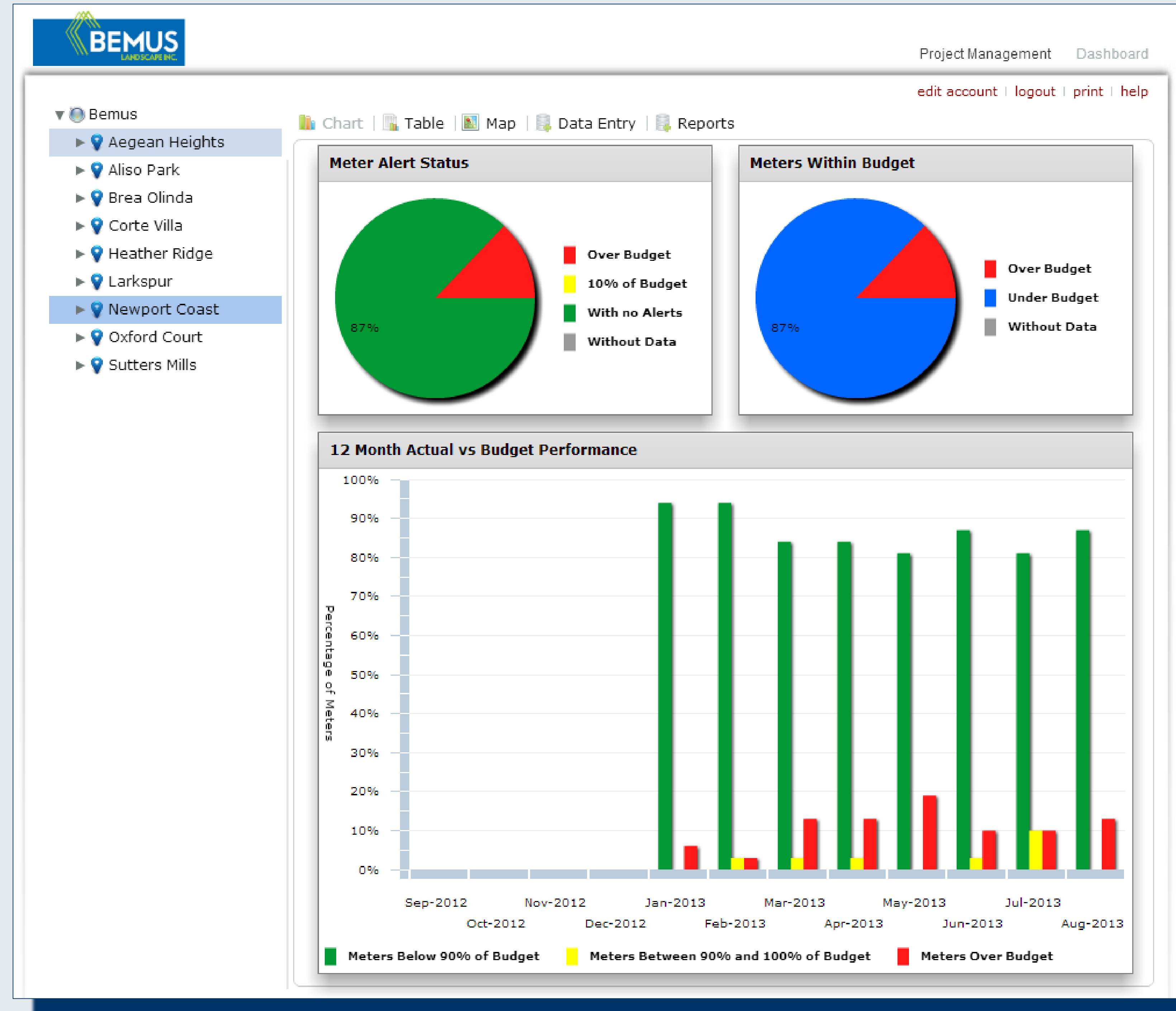
What is the Role of Water Meter Reading? Frequent meter reading (i.e. weekly) ensures that abnormal usage is discovered as soon as possible so that adjustments to the irrigation system may be made. Additionally, the frequent observing and recording of meter readings engages Water Managers and enables frequent comparison of actual water usage to the Water Budget. This helps maintain an actual water usage that is at or below the Water Budget, and also helps avoid penalties for excessive water usage.

Conclusion: Online tools which provide a simple means for determining Water Budgets and assessing current actual usage against the Water Budget engage all water usage stakeholders and provide a useful means for Water Management. Benefits include stakeholder engagement, data based irrigation adjustments and the avoidance of excessive water use and associated penalties.
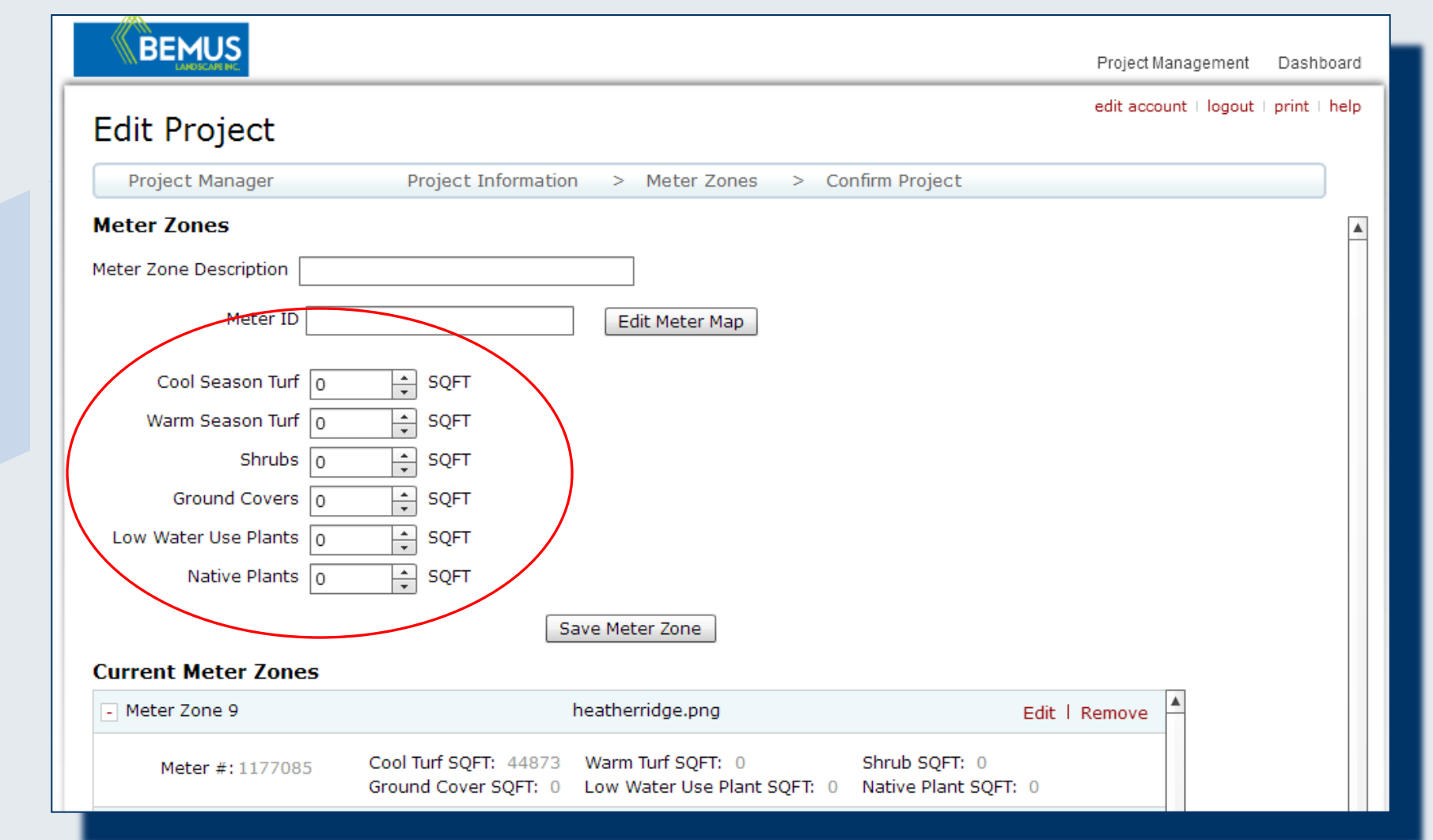
Acknowledgements

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Landscape Data

A key factor for calculating a Water Budget and Water Management, landscape details such as square footage and plant pallet are required.

Water Meter Data

"You can't manage what you don't measure." Regular monitoring and recording of Meter Data is a key factor in Water Management.

ET Data / Weather Data

ET drives Water Budgeting. ET Data and the elements required to derive ET are available nationwide from a variety of public and private sources.