

## **WATER CONSERVATION GUIDELINES**

Water conservation by water service customers can be encouraged in a variety of ways. Determination of the appropriate level of implementation of conservation measures must be made by each public water system on a case by case basis. The following includes common methods that can be used by water systems to promote water conservation:

1. Install individual and source meters. (Refer to ICC 8.09 and 13.03A). Meters allow water system to:
  - Account for water.
  - Charge water rates based on amount of water consumed.
  - Detect leaks.
  - Save money through elimination of high pumping costs and loss of revenues.
  - Save water.
  - Estimate future water need.
  
2. Implement a meter reading and repair program. A log book can be maintained to evaluate water usage trends. Review totals on a monthly basis to determine water losses (leaks). If water use data indicates that unaccounted for water is greater than 20 percent, a program to detect and repair leaks, evaluate and repair meters, or correct other system operation problems should be initiated.

Recommended meter reading schedule:

Source meter: monthly  
Service meters: monthly

3. Implement a rate structure which promotes water conservation.

Water rates should be designed to reflect cost to obtain, treat, and deliver water to the customer and promote water conservation. Incentives and penalties may be used to improve rate effectiveness.

Rate structures that promote conservation include:

- Increasing block rates: price per block increases as consumption increases.
- Seasonal: price level during the season of peak use is higher in the winter.

4. Limit outdoor water use.

Some examples are:

- Limit turf area per lot.
- Limit watering to hours of the day when evaporation is lowest (early morning or late evening).

- Designate odd-even watering days.
- Select low water demand plants and landscaping techniques.
- Use only drip irrigation and hand watering.

5. Limit indoor water use.

Install water saving fixtures.

Some examples of water saving fixtures are:

- Toilet: 1.6 gallons per flush
- Showerhead: 2.0 gpm (gallons per minute).
- Faucet and replacement aerators (lavatory, kitchen, etc.): 2.5 gpm.

6. Reduce water pressure to 45 psi. Where appropriate, pressure reducing valves can be installed on service connections. The minimum pressure required at a service connection is 30 psi.

7. Implement a public education program to increase customer awareness of the benefits of water conservation.

Public education can be achieved in a variety of ways including:

- Bill inserts.
- Workshops.
- Booklets and posters.
- Distribution of water saving devices.
- Billboards or signs.