

New Mexico Water Conservation Program

HOT TOPICS

Hot Topics will highlight a new water conservation topic each quarter and feature some of the best and most current reports and articles on the subject. Relevant documents will be selected from the Water Conservation Program Clearinghouse and listed, along with related Internet sites.

To find out more about the materials offered by the Office of the State Engineer, check the [agency's web site](#) or contact the State Engineer Office at 1-800-WATER-NM or email your request to waternm@seo.state.nm.us.

MUNICIPAL WATER CONSERVATION PLANS

As the drought continues and the state's population increases, more and more New Mexico communities are experiencing current water shortages or are concerned about being able to meet future water demands. In addition, a state law adopted in 2003 requires municipal water suppliers who provide 500 acre-feet or more of water to users to prepare water conservation and drought contingency plans in order to be eligible for water infrastructure funding from the New Mexico Finance Authority or Water Trust Board beginning in 2006.

There are many helpful publications that can assist water managers in preparing and implementing water conservation plans; and the OSE clearinghouse has many of these references on file. The following list provides only a few of these, including *A Water Conservation Guide for Public Utilities*, published by the Office of the State Engineer. The American Water Works Association also publishes a number of manuals on water conservation planning, conservation oriented water rates, and leak detection and repair.

DID YOU KNOW?

- While municipalities do not account for the largest amount of water used in New Mexico, meeting future water demands and ensuring the long-term viability of public water systems is absolutely essential to the welfare of New Mexico's citizens.
- Water utilities throughout the U.S. have found that water conservation is an important component of an overall water supply plan.

- The first step in any successful conservation program is a detailed assessment of the existing water supply system.

SOURCES FROM THE WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM:

- [*A Water Conservation Guide for Public Utilities.*](#) New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, c2001.

The goal of this manual is to present virtually everything a municipality or water utility might consider when dealing with water conservation issues.

- [*A Water Conservation Guide for Commercial, Institutional and Industrial Users.*](#) New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, c1999.

This manual includes useful data that can be used by facility managers to conduct water audits and implement water conservation actions.

- [*2003 New Mexico State Water Plan.*](#)

This State Water Plan has been adopted by the Interstate Stream Commission during the December 17, 2003 Commission meeting.

- *Water Conservation and Quantification of Water Demands in Subdivisions: a Guidance Manual for Public Officials and Developers.* Brian C. Wilson, c1996.

This manual provides guidelines for the preparation and review of subdivision water supply proposals and associated water right applications. Criteria upon which an evaluation of such proposals may be made by the reviewing authority are presented for water conservation measures, water demand analysis, design requirements for community water distribution systems, and water right requirements and limitations.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

- *Achieving Efficient Water Management: A Guidebook for Preparing Municipal Water Conservation Plans.* Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, c1997.

The Bureau of Reclamation prepared this guidebook to help municipal and industrial water districts prepare water conservation plans to achieve more efficient water use.

- *Water Conservation Guidebook for Small and Medium-Sized Utilities.* William Maddaus, Peter Macy, et al. American Water Works Association Pacific Northwest Section, c1993.

This guidebook can assist water utilities serving 1,000 to 25,000 customers in the preparation of a water conservation program. The guidebook contains step-by-step instructions on how to prepare a water conservation plan and includes numerous examples and additional sources of information.

- *Forecasting Urban Water Demand.* Billings, R. Bruce, and Jones, C. Vaughan, c1996.

This book looks at urban water demand forecasting problems suggesting methods of statistical analysis.

- *Designing, Evaluating, and Implementing Conservation Rate Structures.* California Urban Water Conservation Council, c1997.

This report gives an overview of conservation rates and the rate-setting process, designing conservation rates, and evaluating conservation rates.

- *Water Loss Control Manual.* McGraw Hill, c2002.

This book has information on leak detection and repair, pressure management, cost-benefit calculations, and more.