

CITY OF WINNEMUCCA WATER CONSERVATION PLAN JULY 2006

The purpose of this plan is to implement specific work programs to accomplish water conservation in accordance with NRS 540 including, but not limited to: methods of public education, specific water conservation measures, management of water and drought contingency planning.

I. METHODS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION:

Problem: The City of Winnemucca Water System has a finite source of water. With increased population growth and serious droughts every 10 to 15 years, it is necessary to educate the people within our service area of the need to conserve water.

Objective: Increase public awareness of the limited supply of water in this state and our service area and the need to conserve water. Encourage reduction in the size of lawns and encourage the use of plants that are adapted to arid or semi-arid climates.

Work Program:

1. Make water conservation pamphlets available to customers by displaying in Water Department Office.
2. Utilize "Yard Care Tips" as a public service announcement in the local newspaper or on local radio stations in the month of May each year.

II SPECIFIC WATER CONSERVATION MEASURES:

Problem: Identify specific measures that would reduce water consumption and not adversely effect the quality of life we enjoy in this state.

Objective: Contact all local retailers, wholesalers, plumbers, building contractors and inspectors to insure that they are aware of the minimum standards for plumbing fixtures as mandated by state law.

and,

Objective: Establish a water wasting ordinance that prohibits water waste outdoors.

- Work Program:**
1. Continue to work with the Water Department and the Cooperative Extension Office to evaluate specific water conservation measures to meet the needs of the service area.
 2. Continue to encourage reduced water waste and consider implementing specific water conservation measures.
 3. Notify local building officials, local plumbing supplies and contractors that new plumbing fixtures must meet the established efficiency standards.

III. MANAGEMENT OF WATER:

Problem: As the water system ages, leaks develop. The leaks may not be evidenced by surface flow, due to ground absorption. High pressure and meter inaccuracy compound the problem. An effective water audit program is helpful in identifying problem areas.

Objective: Reduce water waste by reducing water supply leakage, meter inaccuracy and high-pressure situations.

- Work Program:**
1. Complete a water audit of the distribution system at least every 3 years. Perform leak repair whenever the audit reveals that it would be cost effective. Advise customers when the leak is on the customer's side of the meter, or on the customer's property.
 2. All new service connections located in areas that are subject to high distribution system pressure (in excess of 80 psi) will be required to install a pressure regulator or pressure reducing valve, unless otherwise approved.

IV DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANNING:

Problem: Nevada is a desert. With increased population growth, a limited water supply and serious drought cycles every 10-15 years, it is necessary for local entities to have drought contingency plans that work.

Objective: Manage the available water supply to insure continued supply of potable water during periods of drought.

- Work Program:**
1. Continue to work with the Water Department to develop a drought contingency plan based on known water supplies and local water demands.
 2. The effectiveness of the Drought Contingency Plan will be measured by the reduction in water use that takes place upon implementation of the various stages of the plan.

V. WATER RATES:

Problem: Flat water rates and un-metered water use convey the message that the water resource is unlimited. The state law calls for an analysis of charging variable rates for the use of water to encourage the conservation of water.

Objective: Continue our program whereby all new connections are metered. All metered customers will be billed by volume of water use.

Work Program: Billing is currently by volume of water use.

VI. PROVIDE INCENTIVES:

Problem: In order for water conservation to become routine to the State of Nevada, incentives should be provided that motivate people or entities to conserve water.

Objective: Provide an incentive program that encourages water conservation, retrofit of existing structures with efficient plumbing fixtures, and landscaping that uses a minimal amount of water.

- Work Program:**
1. A block rate has been established to provide an incentive to conserve water.
 2. Make water conservation materials available to the public by displaying in the Water Department Office.
 3. Encourage local nurseries to promote sales and use of low water using plants.