



Indiana Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF WATER

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Public Water Supply: Conservation

Management & Operations Practices and Policy & Program Practices
for Increased Efficiency

Efficient water use can have many environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintaining aquatic ecosystems, and protecting groundwater and surface water as valuable drinking water resources. Although Indiana appears to have a more than adequate supply of water, increasing demand from all users including domestic, industrial, agricultural, & energy production can begin to put pressure on the available supply. Water conservation programs can result not only in a reduction of this demand, but can also promote awareness of the finite nature of water and encourage more efficient use. A water supplier's operational and management practices play an important role in conservation; as can adoption of policies aimed at educating the consumer. These types of policies can dramatically enhance consumer participation in, and acceptance of, a water utility's overall conservation strategy.

- System Maintenance and Improvements—Implementation of a comprehensive water accounting & loss control program including system inspections, universal metering, and leak detection and repair. The water industry goal for unaccounted-for-water should be 10 percent.
- Incorporate Technology where possible; such as remote sensors and monitoring software, or telemetry technology that can automatically alert operators to leaks or fluctuation in pressure.
- Reduce excessive water pressure in the distribution system, e.g. system wide pressure management, flow restrictors, and pressure-reducing valves.
- Develop educational programs including informative water bills, inserts in water bills, school programs, and public workshops & seminars that include participation from experts, appropriate agencies, and non-profit organizations.
- Assist customers in performing water-use audits that provide users with information about water use habits and how water use might be reduced voluntarily.
- Implement a rate structure that encourages water efficiency or that at least doesn't discourage it. Charge for water & sewer services based on volume.
- Make retrofit kits for residences available free or at cost. Kits may contain items such as low flow faucet aerators, high efficiency showerheads, leak detection tablets, and replacement valves.

For more information regarding water conservation & energy savings visit the Division of Water website at:

www.in.gov/dnr/water/7113.htm

- Consider a reclaimed wastewater distribution system for non-potable uses.

