



**IDAHO
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**

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Water Conservation Tips for Local Governments

Municipal Water Systems

- Promote a metering system that includes regular meter readings, a detailed metering network, and reports water usage back to the customer.
- Explore utility rate structure that encourages water efficiency, such as time-of-day pricing, tiered or block rate pricing.
- Monitor your systems for leaks, and repair leaks immediately. Fixing leaks not only conserves water, but also minimizes property damage and saves money.
- Re-use treated water for landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation, fire protection or other industrial uses.
- Cap abandoned artesian wells to minimize water loss.
- Establish a public education and outreach program.
- Offer residential water audits to help users conserve water.
- Develop a drought management plan.

For Your Community

- Develop a water efficiency plan for your community. Include conservation measures, reduction goals and community outreach.
- Offer incentive programs to homeowners and businesses to encourage water conservation.
- Include water efficiency requirements in building codes.
- Ensure fire hydrants are tamper proof.
- Promote low water use landscaping (xeriscape) in municipal parks.
- Water municipal parks and gardens at night and using timer controlled sprinkler systems to minimize evaporation.
- Install water-saving pool filters in municipal pools.

Government Buildings

- Establish a maintenance plan for your water system to detect and repair all leaks.
- Install low-flow toilets in government buildings.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads in government buildings.
- Install energy and water efficient appliances and equipment such as dishwashers in municipal buildings.
- Water areas around government buildings at night, using a programmable timer.
- Target sprinklers to ensure that only lawn and garden areas get watered, not the street, sidewalks or parking lots.
- Use native plants and low water landscaping (xeriscape) around city buildings.

For More Information

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
EPA's Office of Water
Idaho Department of Water Resources
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality

www.epa.gov
www.water.epa.gov
www.idwr.idaho.gov
www.deq.idaho.gov