Georgia's

State Water Plan

Conservation

Middle Chattahoochee Council
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www.georgiawaterplanning.org

Conservation

What'll ya Have? What'll ya have? What'll ya have?

The BIG 3:

1. Water Conservation Development Plan Tiers of Conservation
2. Water Conservation Implementation Plan WCIP
3. Water Stewardship Act of 2010

Tiers of Conservation Practices:

- Tier ONE practices – mandatory through rules or law
- Tier TWO practices – options addressed through rule
- Tier THREE practices – optional, basic
- Tier FOUR practices – optional, beyond basic to help "close the gap"

Introduction to the WCIP

- Georgia's Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP) was updated and released in March 2010
- The WCIP incorporates improvements suggested by Georgia citizens, businesses and organizations, including:

1. A summary chart of critical elements of the plan: the sector-specific conservation goals, benchmarks, best practices and implementation actions;
2. Updated language regarding Georgia's drought conditions; and
3. Enhanced benchmarks, definitions and references..

What is the water conservation implementation plan?

- Developed EPD, in partnership with individuals representing the diverse water users of the state
- Intended to create a culture of conservation and guide Georgians toward more efficient use of our state's finite water resources.
- Serves as a resource for institutional water users and may assist with prioritizing water conservation, maximizing water efficiency and protecting water resources.

How can the WCIP be used?

Will guide decisions on water use and management:

1. Educating water users about water conservation practices and the goals they can accomplish,
2. **Informing regional water plan preparation that will be overseen by regional water planning councils**,
3. Helping water use sectors collectively improve water use efficiency, and
4. Informing DNR rule-making regarding water conservation requirements in permitting.

WCIP Guidelines for Water Users

- Agriculture
- Electric Generation
- Golf Courses
- Industrial & Commercial Facilities
- Landscape Irrigation
- Domestic & Non-industrial Public Uses
- State Agencies

Conserving Water Used for Agricultural Irrigation

Goal #1 : Research institutions and state agencies, in cooperation with farmers, should enhance their understanding of water use and levels of efficiency of existing agricultural irrigation.

		Best Practices	Impl. Actions
	Benchmark 1A By June 2010, state agencies and research institutions should determine the extent of water conservation implementation currently in place on Georgia farms.	BP 3 – Data collection on cropping and water conservation practices	2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6
	Benchmark 1B By December 2010, GSWCC, EPD and other agencies should establish a state-wide baseline for agricultural water use, incorporating water use information collected from meters on agricultural irrigation systems.	BP 1 – Irrigation water metering	2.1, 2.2
		BP 2 – Real-time metering	
	Benchmark 1C By January 2011, research institutions should initiate studies to determine variability in water needs by crop variety.	BP 4 – Determination of variability in water needs by crop variety	2.7
	Benchmark 1D By January 2020, GSWCC and UGAExt should establish water and energy auditing teams to conduct voluntary irrigation audits every 10 years for all Georgia farmers with agricultural water use permits.	BP 5 – Irrigation audits	2.8, 2.9, 2.10, 2.11, 2.12

CONSERVE WATER GEORGIA

Conserving Water Used for Electric Generation and Use

Goal #1 : Electric utilities should assess the feasibility and benefit of integrating water conservation efforts into utilities' long-term plans for meeting energy demands.

	Benchmark 1A	Best Practices	Impl. Actions
	By June 2010, state agencies, with assistance from research institutions, electric utilities, water providers and others, should identify areas of critical information gaps regarding the relationship between water conservation and energy conservation.	BP 1 - Tools that estimate the impact of water conservation on energy demands.	3.1, 3.2
	Benchmark 1B By August 2010, state agencies, research institutions, electric utilities and water providers and others should begin implementing a process for bridging the information gaps identified in Benchmark 1A and, where appropriate, testing them at the local level and incorporating them into long-term plans for meeting energy demands.	BP 2 - Integrate water supply and water conservation impacts into long-term energy plans	

GOAL #2 : Electric utilities should work with their customers to better understand the impact water conservation activities may have on their energy demands and, where practicable, the water savings from energy conservation.

	Benchmark 2A	Best Practices	Impl. Actions
	By December 2010, electric utilities should partner with their large	BP 3 – Technical assistance to customers	3.3

A complete copy of the WCIP and all supporting material are available through www.ConserveWaterGeorgia.net

Water Stewardship Act of 2010

Legislative Intent:

To create a Culture of Conservation

Water Stewardship Act of 2010

- Directs agencies to examine their practices and identify enhanced programming and incentives for voluntary water conservation and enhanced water supply by local water providers

- Gives EPD authority to establish minimum standards and best practices for public water systems to address leakage, water loss audits, and leak detection

Water Stewardship Act of 2010

- Gives EPD authority to revoke, suspend, or modify a local government authority's water withdrawal or waste treatment permit for violations of outdoor water restriction guidelines

- Farm use surface water/groundwater withdrawal permits

Water Stewardship Act of 2010

- Multi-tenant sub-metering beginning July 1, 2010
- High efficiency fixtures required in new construction beginning July 1, 2012
- High efficiency cooling devices in new industrial buildings beginning July 1, 2012
- Creates Joint Committee on Water Supply