

CONSERVING WATER NOW TO PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE

While population and demand on freshwater resources are increasing, supply will always remain constant. And although it's true that the water cycle continuously returns water to Earth, it is not always returned to the same place or in the same quantity and quality.

Droughts happen somewhere in the country every year, and climate change has the potential to increase stress on water resources. In order to create a more sustainable water future, cities and states are coming together to encourage water conservation as a way to reduce demand.

COMMUNITIES FACE CHALLENGES

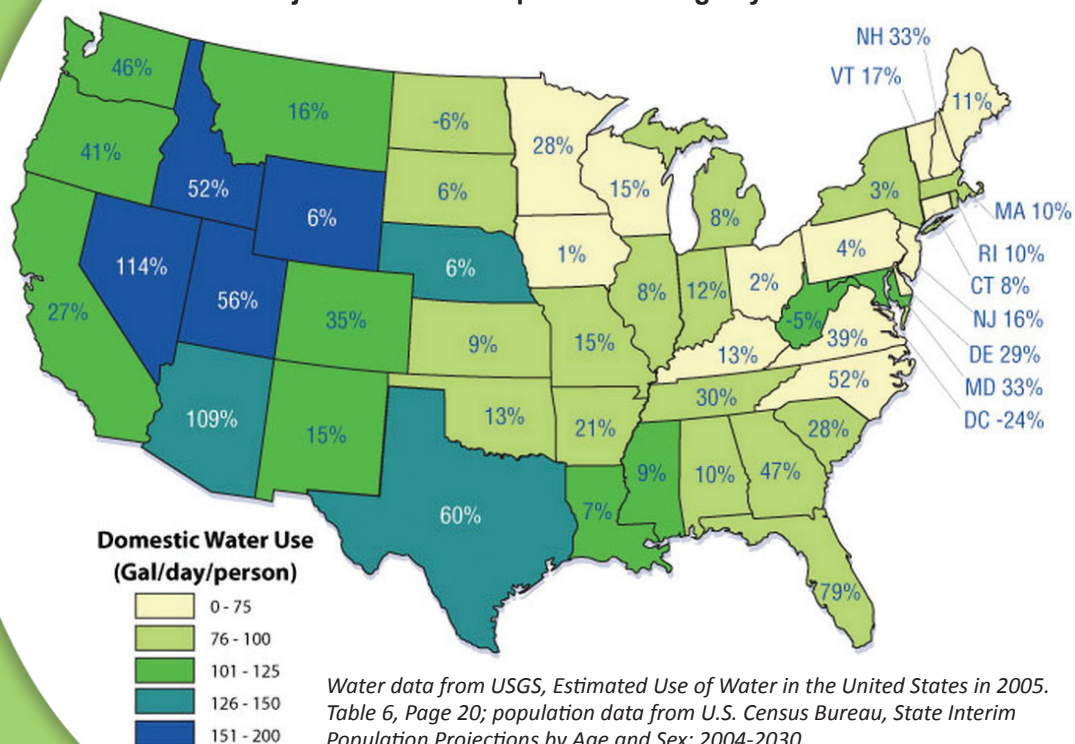
Managing water is a growing concern in the United States.

Communities across the country are starting to face challenges regarding water supply and a need to update aging water treatment and delivery systems, sometimes referred to as "water infrastructure." Many of the states that have higher projected population growth also have higher per capita water use and can expect increased competition for water resources.

Strains on water supplies and our aging water treatment systems can lead to a variety of consequences for communities:

- Higher water prices to ensure continued access to a reliable and safe supply;
- Increased summer watering restrictions to manage shortages;
- Seasonal loss of recreational areas like lakes and rivers when the human demand for water conflicts with environmental needs; and
- Expensive water treatment projects to transport and store freshwater when local demand overcomes available capacity.

Domestic Water Use in Gallons per Day per Person and Projected Percent Population Change by 2030



CONSIDER THESE AT-HOME WATER SAVING TECHNIQUES

FOLLOW THE RULES

Your water utility must ensure water is available to fight fires and meet other critical needs, so help your community by following the rules. They will be lifted when water shortages end.

LOOK FOR LEAKS

The last thing you want to do during a drought is waste water through leaks. Look for leaks indoors and out, and if you find them, fix them.

TAKE A SPRINKLER BREAK

Outdoor water use can put a lot of stress on local water supplies. You can be water-smart by letting your grass grow longer and making other maintenance adjustments. Grass doesn't need to be green year round—you can cut back on watering and the green will return when rains return. WaterSense has lots of water-saving tips for drought resilient landscapes.

Adapted from EPA WaterSense

CONSIDER AN UPGRADE

If you have been thinking about a bathroom makeover, a drought is a great time to get busy. You will help your utility with immediate savings and save yourself money on future bills. WaterSense labeled products are a great way to save!

GO THE EXTRA MILE

If you want to go above and beyond in water savings, think about reusing water. You can collect water in a bucket while waiting for the shower to warm up or when washing pots, and use it to water container plants or flower beds. Use your imagination to come up with creative ways to save water!

