

2024

WATER USE EFFICIENCY REPORT

FOR RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF ASOTIN — MAY 2024

WATER USE EFFICIENCY—WATER CONSERVATION REGULATION

This is the annual edition of the City of Asotin Water Use Efficiency Report. In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed a law commonly called the Municipal Water Bill. One of the provisions of the law was to direct the State Department of Health to develop and adopt rules governing water use efficiency and water conservation by public water system throughout the state.

After a lengthy process, the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule was adopted in January 2007. The WUE Rule requires that public water systems develop a water use efficiency plan and water conservation goals. To meet the WUE rule requirements, in 2010, the City developed both a supply side (City) and demand side (Customer) goals as a part of updating their Water System Plan. A public hearing was held to receive input on the WUE Plan and goals from City residents. After the public hearing, the City Council adopted the proposed plan and goals. The new WUE Rule also requires public water systems to report annually to their customers on the progress they are making toward reaching the goals. In this Report, we will detail the water conservation goals the City Council adopted and demonstrate how we are meeting those goals.

WATER USE EFFICIENCY— WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

The City has proposed to reduce customer water usage by .5% per year. This will be accomplished through the adoption of four (4) goals. Along with continuing our program of finding and repairing leaks and looking for opportunities to conserve water, the Plan outlines customer educational and conservation measures that will assist City residents in saving water and money. The City selected the following objectives for its water conservation program:

- Target cost effective activities that result in the greatest water savings for initial implementation.
- Be balanced and equitable, rather than unduly burden any one customer class or industry.
- Prioritize education because it results in long-term changes in water use habits.
- Meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by Washington State Department of Health
- Be primarily voluntary, assistance-oriented and informational, rather than restrictive or forced.

Water Use Efficiency Goals & Measures

Supply-Side (City) Water Use Efficiency Measures

The City of Asotin conservation program is driven by the desire to reduce system leakage in both the City distribution system, which will reduce operating costs, and at the water production facilities. Below are the measures that the City has pursued in it's conservation program.

Distribution System Leakage of 10% or less of production

It is the goal of the City of Asotin to perform annual leak detection surveys and to repair leaking distribution mains in a timely manner. The goal is to keep our water system leakage below 10% of production. The 2023 distribution system leakage was 1.14%. The 5-year average is 7.79% and we are meeting the goal of keeping our annual water system leakage below 10% of production. Staff found and repaired distribution system leaks.

Install and Replace Customer Service Meters and Source Production Meters

As a part of this plan as required by WUE rules, the City of Asotin initiated the installation of service meters on the City park and the Fire Station. The WUE rule of meter installation ensures the accurate calculation of water usage. If other services are found to be without meters, they will be installed. There are two water production sources, Wells No. 1 and No. 2. Both sources have meters to track water production as required by WUE rules.

Water Use Efficiency Goals & Measures (continued...)

Demand-Side (Customer) Water Use Efficiency Measures

The City of Asotin's demand-side conservation program will consist of the four (4) measures listed below. These measures have been selected due to a combination of factors including applicability to City of Asotin service area, customer acceptance, cost effectiveness, and/or water savings potential.

Irrigate with Reclaimed Water

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) has had recent upgrades to the plant. Part of those upgrades has included the ability to use reclaimed water in the irrigation and wash down system. A pump was added to the disinfection vault that allows the water to be reclaimed after it has been fully treated. Using the reclaimed water at the WWTP for irrigation and wash down purposes can save as much as 100,000 gallons per year of water. The City will monitor this activity in order to show the tangible water conservation savings.

Provide Customers with Consumptive History

The City of Asotin, upon request, will provide customers a history of consumption. Providing historical data on consumption will allow customers to understand how their use varies each month throughout the year and from year to year. This information will provide consumptive awareness and assist customers in making informed choices about how they manage their water use, including implementing conservation.

Customer Education

The City of Asotin provides conservation information and tips on its website, in its customer handbook, customer brochures and on customer bills. The City provides and makes available to students and teachers water and water conservation education programs. Education includes providing information on items such as Xeriscape landscaping practices and irrigation efficiency.

Free Bathroom Faucet Aerators and Free Showerheads

This measure provides free bathroom faucet aerators and showerheads for residential customers to replace less efficient aerators and low flow showerheads. The aerators will be 1.0 gallons per minute (gpm), which is more efficient than the maximum 2.5 gpm allowed under the plumbing code for residential sectors. The flow rate on the showerheads is 2.0 gpm, which is more efficient than the maximum 2.5 gpm allowed under the plumbing code. The City distributed 100 water savings kits in 2011.

The City of Asotin is committed to work towards meeting the goals listed above. Annual water use fluctuates based on temperature, as much as 16%, making the meeting of established goals challenging. After plan adoption in 2010 customer and city water use had decreased significantly due to the repair of leaks and metering of all services. In the past few years increasing water required leak detection resulting in finding and eliminating leaks.



A full copy of the City of Asotin Water Use Efficiency—Water Conservation Plan is available at City Hall for pickup and on our website at www.cityofasotin.org.