

5.39 Water Conservation Recommendations

Regional water planning guidelines require each regional water planning group to consider water conservation to meet projected shortages. The Brazos G RWPG adopted the following water conservation recommendations for the 2021 Plan which are further described in Volume II, Section 2.

- Municipal water user groups (WUGs) with per capita rates exceeding 140 gallons per person per day (gpcd) were recommended to reduce per capita consumption by 1% annually through 2070 until a 140 gpcd rate is attained. This recommendation applies to all municipal water user groups with and without projected water supply needs (shortages). For WUGs in Williamson County, a more aggressive conservation goal of 120 gpcd by 2070 is recommended. Conservation can be achieved through a variety of best management practices, many of which are listed in Section 2 of Volume II.
- Irrigation water user groups with identified needs were recommended to reduce water use by 3% by 2020, 5% by 2030, and 7% from 2040-2070. A list of best management practices is included in Volume II, Section 2.
- Manufacturing and mining water user groups with identified needs were recommended to reduce water use by 3% by 2020, 5% by 2030, and 7% from 2040-2070. A list of best management practices is included in Volume II, Section 2.
- Conservation recommendations were not made for steam-electric users due to the widely differing water use amongst the different facilities.
- Conservation recommendations were not made for livestock water user groups.

Expected savings from the above water conservation recommendations can be seen for each water user group in the preceding individual county and WWP plans (Sections 5.1 through 5.38) and in Volume II, Section 2.

The Brazos G RWPG suggests that WUGs in the region review the lists of BMPs and look to identify WUGs at a relevant size with similar water supply type and consider voluntary implementation of those best management practices, if applicable.

TCEQ has prepared model water conservation plans (WCPs) for municipal public water suppliers, wholesale providers, industrial and mining entities, and agricultural users to provide guidance and suggestions to entities with regard to the preparation of water conservation plans. Not all items in the model plan will apply to every system's situation, but the overall model plan can be used as a starting point for most entities. For WUGs wishing to develop a new WCP, Brazos G suggests considering best management practices from local water conservation plans for entities similar in size, as discussed previously, in addition to the TCEQ Model WCPs. The TCEQ model water conservation plans can be found on TCEQ's website at the following link:

https://www.tceq.texas.gov/permitting/water_rights/wr_technical-resources/conserved.html

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