

Cochise County Local Drought Impact Group - Recommended actions during various drought status levels (adapted from the Governors Drought Plan)

I. Normal (Reduce Vulnerability)

Communities and Utilities

1. Develop, Submit & Implement Drought/Conservation Plan
2. Develop and pass water waste and other appropriate drought response ordinances (e.g., turf requirements for nonresidential customers, drought-related water schedules, etc.)
3. Discourage developers from requiring turf in residential developments
4. Develop alternative supplies
5. Improve infrastructure and storage facilities, if necessary
6. Study water use efficiency of all customers
7. Increase use of reclaimed effluent for commercial landscaping to reduce potable water supply shortages
8. Fix irrigation system leaks
9. Implement Conservation Programs – focus on measures that are especially visible to the public
 - a. Require restaurants to provide water only upon request (table tent program)
 - b. Require hotel/motels to implement linen & towel replacement programs

Individuals

- 1) Practice appropriate conservation strategies
 - a) Install low-water use landscaping
 - b) Reset irrigation timers seasonally
 - c) Implement water harvesting techniques
 - d) Convert high water using plumbing and fixtures with low-flow fixtures
 - e) Avoid outdoor watering during hottest part of the day
 - f) Eliminate runoff from property and reduce overspray from sprinkler systems
 - g) Repair leaks in irrigation system
 - h) Conduct home water audits and leak detection. Fix leaking faucets and replace faulty fixtures
 - i) Use covers to reduce evaporation from pools

II. Abnormally Dry (Raise Consciousness – Water Alert) – All the above plus,

Communities and Utilities

- 1) Implement Drought Plan
- 2) Communicate conditions, increase outreach and provide conservation tips

- 3) Provide incentives for (or require) all new and existing large turf users (golf courses, common areas of subdivision) to be hooked up to non-potable supplies (e.g., reclaimed effluent).
- 4) Increase water use efficiency and/or promote use of reclaimed water for street sweeping, public facility landscaping
- 5) Develop and adopt increased conservation rate changes or surcharges to respond to increasing drought conditions

III. Moderate (Voluntary Reduction – Water Warning) All the above plus,

Communities and Utilities

- 1) Communicate drought level & conditions
- 2) Increase education on conservation followed by voluntary reductions for communities
- 3) Require public facilities to reduce by community determined percentage
- 4) Implement water waste ordinances
 - a) Residential - must keep water on property
 - b) Non-residential / Commercial – Prohibit washing sidewalks or parking lots,
- 5) Develop temporary pumping, water hauling, emergency interconnects, and water rights transfers
- 6) Explore additional opportunities for utilizing reclaimed water
- 7) Provide incentives for water conservation for residences and businesses installing efficient alternative outdoor irrigation to meet percentage reduction needs

Individuals

- 1) Implement conservation practices to voluntarily reduce water use
 - a) Avoid outdoor watering during hottest part of the day
 - b) Eliminate runoff from outdoor watering systems (retain all water on property)
- 2) Comply with water wasting ordinances
- 3) Voluntarily reduce discretionary outdoor water uses (e.g., home car washing, pool refills)

IV. Severe (Curtailed – Water Emergency) All the above plus,

Communities and Utilities

- 1) Communicate drought level & conditions
- 2) Increased emphasis on existing Conservation Programs
- 3) Institute rationing through fixed allotments for large turf facilities
- 4) Implement time of day/day of week schedules
- 5) Require reductions in nonessential outdoor watering according to a community determined percentage
- 6) Reduce indoor water use (according to a community determined percentage)
- 7) Prohibit requirements in subdivisions that require turf in landscaping
- 8) Prohibit use of outdoor misters
- 9) Impose restrictions on fire and fireworks
- 10) Prohibit car washing for fundraising and encourage use of commercial car washing facilities where water is recycled
- 11) Discourage winter over seeding
- 12) Implement supply augmentation strategies (temporary pumping, water hauling, emergency interconnects, and water rights transfers)
- 13) Consider a moratorium on building permits if current demand cannot be met
- 14) Consider and implement (if current demand cannot be met) pressure reduction and/or emergency shut off of water during certain times of the day

Individuals

- 1) Reduce outdoor watering
 - a) Reset irrigation timers consistent with community time of day/day of week schedule
 - b) Convert to Xeriscaping or native plants
 - c) Utilize water harvesting practices
 - d) Use commercial car washes
- 2) Take extra steps to reduce indoor water use (e.g., reduce shower times)
- 3) Reuse water
 - a) Use gray water for watering indoor and outdoor plants
 - b) Capture shower water in buckets for use in watering indoor and outdoor plants
 - c) Divert pool back wash to landscaping rather than discharging into the street or alley (check with local or county government for rules/restrictions)
- 4) Comply with water wasting ordinances

- 5) Comply with time of day/day of week outdoor watering restrictions

V. Extreme (Eliminate Non-essential Water Use – Water Crisis) All the above plus,

Communities and Utilities

- 1) Communicate conditions, increase outreach and promote conservation tips
- 2) Eliminate outdoor watering: no misters in commercial or public facilities, limit residential car washing, prohibit water used in fountains, prohibit residential pool refills – publicize enforcement activities to customers
- 3) Prohibit all public water uses not required for health or safety and publicize enforcement activities to customer
- 4) ET monitoring – utility to turn off watering during peak periods (e.g., golf courses, common areas of developments, parks)
- 5) Prohibit winter over seeding – (allowances for golf courses – e.g., greens only)
- 6) Implement turf removal program
- 7) Increase energy efficiency thereby reducing use of cooling tower water use at thermal power generating stations
- 8) Implement a moratorium on building permits if current demand cannot be met
- 9) Implement (if current demand cannot be met) pressure reduction and/or emergency shut off of water during certain times of the day

Individual

- 1) Eliminate outdoor watering