

June 2016
DOH 331-577

Fact Sheet

Water Use Efficiency Progress Report

The 2003 Municipal Water Supply-Efficiency Requirements Act (2ESSHB 1338) gave municipal water systems more flexibility to serve growing communities by revising the “use it, or lose it” policy in Water Rights Law. In exchange for this flexibility, the law required new water use efficiency (WUE) standards.

The Department of Health’s WUE Rule requires more than 2,100 public water systems to:

- Establish water savings goals for customers and implement water saving actions that promote water efficiency.
- Develop a long-term WUE plan to support the established goals.
- Install source meters immediately and service meters on all customer connections by January 22, 2017.
- Collect and report water use information annually.
- Reduce water loss to 10 percent or less.

Reporting

We created an online reporting database to help municipal water systems submit their water use data to us each year. As they create their reports, water system managers can see how water use in their communities varies from year to year. That information can help them decide where and when to invest in their water infrastructure and how to manage their water resources, especially during a drought or other emergency. The annual report ensures systems evaluate their efforts to reach WUE goals and report their performance to customers, the public, and the state on a regular basis.

WUE Reporting

For each of the past eight years, more than 90 percent of water systems submitted an annual WUE report to us. This report includes:

- Metered data from sources and customers.
- Progress towards achieving customer goals.
- Water loss volume and percent.

WUE Goal Setting

Water efficiency goals establish the fundamentals of a sustainable water management program for public water systems. Both supply and demand water-use reduction targets help water managers decide which strategies to implement when planning for short- and long- term water efficiency. Through a public process, water systems must periodically establish demand-side goals that aim to reduce water consumption. This requirement ensures that water systems understand their customers’ water use behaviors and re-evaluate WUE programs and goals on a regular basis.



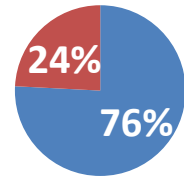
HELPING TO ENSURE SAFE AND RELIABLE DRINKING WATER

According to data submitted in 2014 WUE reports, 76 percent of water systems met the minimum compliance criteria. Some of the most common goals in WUE annual reports include:

- 2 to 5 percent reduction in consumption over the next 5 to 6 years.
- 1 to 3 percent reduction in consumption annually.
- Reduce peak summer demand by 3 percent.

2014 WUE Goals

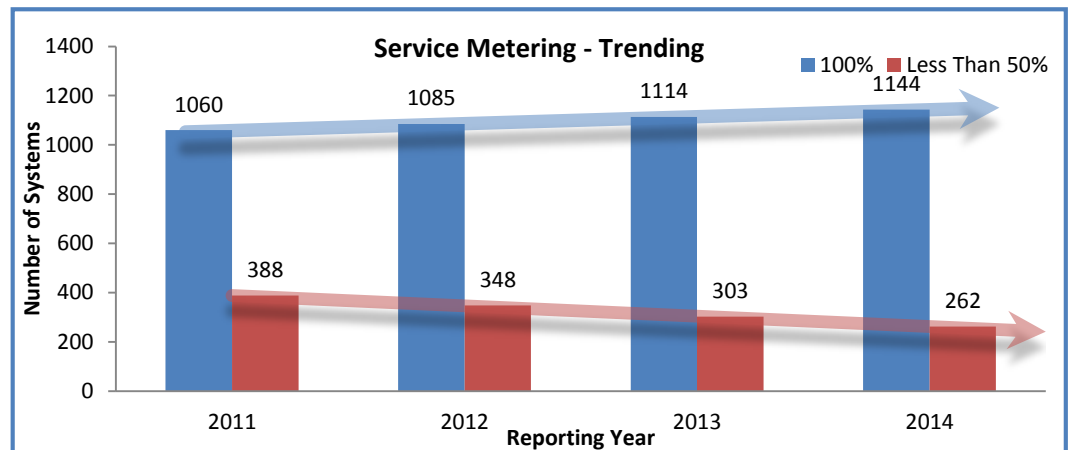
- Water Reduction Target Identified
- No Target Identified



Metering

New standards for supply-side efficiency prompted water systems to take a much closer look at the quality of data collected from source and service meters. After source and service meters are in place and read regularly, water systems can begin identifying real and apparent water losses. Meters provide information about variations in customers' water use patterns. This knowledge helps water systems establish WUE goals, understand peak demand, and evaluate financial viability. The deadline for installing meters on all customer connections is January 22, 2017.

WUE reports show steady progress installing service meters since 2011. Many water systems plan to finish installing meters in 2016.



Water-Loss Control

Since we adopted the WUE Rule, "accountability" best describes the way the municipal water sector views water loss. To meet the 10 percent distribution system leakage standard, water systems continue to improve the way they track and report water use information.

Statewide Water Loss

Average water system losses have steadily decreased, averaging 9.6 percent in 2014.

By using leak detection surveys; fixing leaky pipes, tanks and reservoirs; conducting water audits; and installing, calibrating or replacing meters, water systems are better able to account for all water use. More efficient water systems save money by reducing chemical treatment costs, using less energy to pump and distribute lost water, and capturing lost revenue with more accurate service meters.

For more information:

Call our regional office.

Eastern Region: Spokane 509-329-2100

Northwest Region: Kent 253-395-6750

Southwest Region: Tumwater 360-236-3030

Our publications are online at

<http://www.doh.wa.gov/CommunityandEnvironment/DrinkingWater/PublicationsandForms>

For people with disabilities, this document is available on request in other formats. To submit a request, please call 1-800-525-0127 (TDD/TTY call 711).