2019 Water Use Efficiency Report

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed the Municipal Water Supply – Efficiency Requirements Act, also known as the Municipal Water Law. The Municipal Water Law required the State to implement the Water Use Efficiency Rule. The intent of this new rule is to help reduce the demand that growing communities, agriculture and industry have placed on our State's water resources. Water suppliers are obligated under the Water Use Efficiency Rule to enhance the efficient use of water by the system and/or its consumers.

Requirements of the Water Use Efficiency Rule

The Water Use Efficiency Rule applies to all municipal water suppliers and requires suppliers to:

- Develop water use efficiency goals through a public process and report annually on their performance;
- Maintain distribution system leakage at or below 10 percent of production;
- Meter all existing and new service connections;
- Collect production and consumption data, calculate distribution system leakage and forecast demands;
- Evaluate water use efficiency measures; and
- Implement a Water Use Efficiency Program.

Efficiency Goals

The Association adopted the following water use efficiency goals in April of 2008 and revised them in March 2014.

- Achieve a water use reduction of .5 percent per year per ERU through 2018, with 2012 as the base year. This goal will be re-evaluated when the water comprehensive plan is updated.
- Reduce distribution system leakage to 10% by 2025.

To achieve water use reduction the Association has, and continues to contribute to conservation education in schools, print conservation tips in our newsletter, have a conservation rate structure, provide rebates for water efficient clothes washers, meter sources and customer services.

To reduce system leakage the Association has taken the following actions:

- Track water used during flushing and other Association activities.
- Coordinated with the Fire Department to obtain their information on fire hydrant usage amounts during fires and training.
- Implement a meter replacement program, replacing all meters older than 15 years. This was completed in 2017.
- Source meter cleaning on a semiannual basis to allow for more accurate readings.
- In 2016 started a leak detection project that will span 4 years and will survey the entire system.
- As a result of the leak survey, water mains, fire hydrants and service lines determined to be leaking are repaired or replaced.

The Association's system leakage has decreased from a 19% average from 2005- 2007 to 14.17% in 2019.