

Cinco MUD 8 Texas State Report Card

The Alliance for Water Efficiency conducted a state scorecard on water initiatives. Only Texas and California scored As. Both states received an A-. All the states surrounding Texas scored a C or D. Below are some of the initiatives in Texas:

Plumbing in Texas:

(a) A person may not sell, offer for sale, distribute, or import into this state a plumbing fixtures for use in this state unless:

(1) the plumbing fixture meets the water saving performance standards provided below: For a urinal and the associated flush valve, if any, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state on or after January 1, 2014:

(A) maximum flow may not exceed an average of 0.5 gallons of water per flush.

For a toilet sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state on or after January 1, 2014:

(A) the toilet must be a dual flush water closet that meets the following standards:

(i) the average flush volume of two reduced flushes and one full flush may not exceed 1.28 gallons or

(B) the toilet must be a single flush water closet that meets the following standards:

(i) the average flush volume may not exceed 1.28 gallons .

(g) The water saving performance standards for a urinal and the associated flush valve, if any, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state on or after January 1, 2014, are [maximum flow may not exceed an average of one gallon of water per flush] if the urinal was designed for heavy-duty commercial applications.

(h) The water saving performance standards for a toilet sold, offered for sale, or distributed in this state on or after January 1, 2014, are [maximum flow may not exceed an average of 1.6 gallons of water per flush] if the toilet is a water closet that has a design not typically found in a residential application or that is designed for a specialized application, including a water closet that:

(1) is mounted on the wall and discharges to the drainage system through the floor;

(2) is located in a correctional facility,

(3) is used in a bariatric application;

(4) is used by children at a day-care facility; or

(5) consists of a non-tank type commercial bowl connected to the plumbing system through a pressurized flushing device.

Drought Contingency Plans for Texas

(5) Drought contingency plans for retail public water suppliers. Retail public water suppliers shall submit a drought contingency plan meeting [applicable] requirements . . . to the executive director after adoption by its governing body. The retail public water system shall provide a copy of the plan to the regional water planning group for each region within which the water system operates.

31 (1) Minimum requirements. Drought contingency plans shall include the following minimum elements.

(A) Preparation of the plan shall include provisions to actively inform the public and affirmatively provide opportunity for public input. Such acts may include, but are not

limited to, having a public meeting at a time and location convenient to the public and providing written notice to the public concerning the proposed plan and meeting.

(B) Provisions shall be made for a program of continuing public education and information regarding the drought contingency plan.

(C) The drought contingency plan must document coordination with the Regional Water Planning Groups for the service area of the retail public water supplier to insure consistency with the appropriate approved regional water plans.

(D) The drought contingency plan shall include a description of the information to be monitored by the water supplier, and specific criteria for the initiation and termination of drought response stages, accompanied by an explanation of the rationale or basis for such triggering criteria.

(E) The drought contingency plan must include drought or emergency response stages providing for the implementation of measures in response to at least the following situations:

(i) reduction in available water supply up to a repeat of the drought of record;

(F) The drought contingency plan must include the specific water supply or water demand management measures to be implemented during each stage of the plan including, but not limited to, the following:

(i) curtailment of non-essential water uses; and

(ii) utilization of alternative water sources and/or alternative delivery mechanisms with the prior approval of the executive director as appropriate (e.g., interconnection with another water system, temporary use of a non-municipal water supply, use of reclaimed water for non-potable purposes, etc.).

(G) The drought contingency plan must include the procedures to be followed for the initiation or termination of each drought response stage, including procedures for notification of the public.

(H) The drought contingency plan must include procedures for granting variances to the plan.

(I) The drought contingency plan must include procedures for the enforcement of any mandatory water use restrictions, including specification of penalties (e.g., fines, water rate surcharges, discontinuation of service) for violations of such restrictions.

(2) Privately-owned water utilities. Privately-owned water utilities shall prepare a drought contingency plan in accordance with this section and shall incorporate such plan into their tariff.

(3) Wholesale water customers. Any water supplier that receives all or a portion of its water supply from another water supplier shall consult with that supplier and shall include in the drought contingency plan appropriate provisions for responding to reductions in that water supply.

(c) The retail public water supplier shall review and update, as appropriate, the drought contingency plan, at least every five years, based on new or updated information, such as the adoption or revision of the regional water plan.

The next revision of the water conservation plan for municipal, industrial, and other non-irrigation uses must be submitted every five years to coincide with the regional water planning group. Any revised plans must be submitted to the executive director within 90 days of adoption. The revised plans must include implementation reports.

Texas Water Conservation Plans

(1) Minimum requirements. All water conservation plans for municipal uses by public drinking water suppliers shall include the following elements:

(A) a utility profile including, but not limited to, information regarding population and customer data, water use data, water supply system data, and wastewater system data;

(B) specification of conservation goals including, but not limited to, municipal per capita water use goals, the basis for the development of such goals, and a time frame for achieving the specified goals;

(C) metering device(s), within an accuracy of plus or minus 5.0% in order to measure and account for the amount of water diverted from the source of supply;

(D) a program for universal metering of both customer and public uses of water, for meter testing and repair, and for periodic meter replacement;

(E) measures to determine and control unaccounted-for uses of water (for example, periodic visual inspections along distribution lines; annual or monthly audit of the water system to determine illegal connections, abandoned services, etc.);

(F) a program of continuing public education and information regarding water conservation;

(G) a water rate structure which is not "promotional," i.e., a rate structure which is cost-based and which does not encourage the excessive use of water;

(H) a reservoir systems operations plan, if applicable, providing for the coordinated operation of reservoirs owned by the applicant within a common watershed or river basin in order to optimize available water supplies; and

(I) a means of implementation and enforcement.

(J) documentation of coordination with the Regional Water Planning Groups for the service area of the public water supplier in order to insure consistency with the appropriate approved regional water plans.

(2) Additional content requirements. Water conservation plans for municipal uses by public drinking water suppliers serving a current population of 5,000 or more and/or a projected population of 5,000 or more within the next ten years subsequent to the effective date of the plan shall include the following elements:

(A) a program of leak detection, repair, and water loss accounting for the water transmission, delivery, and distribution system in order to control unaccounted-for uses of water;

(B) a record management system to record water pumped, water deliveries, water sales, and water losses which allows for the desegregation of water sales and uses into the following user classes:

(i) residential;

(ii) commercial;

(iii) public and institutional; and

(iv) industrial; and

(C) a requirement in every wholesale water supply contract entered into or renewed after official adoption of the plan (by either ordinance, resolution, or tariff), and including any contract extension, that each successive wholesale customer develop and implement a water conservation plan or water conservation measures using the applicable elements in this chapter; if the customer intends to resell the water, then the contract between the initial supplier and customer must provide that the contract for the

resale of the water must have water conservation requirements so that each successive customer in the resale of the water will be required to implement water conservation measures in accordance with applicable provisions of this chapter.

(3) Additional conservation strategies. Any combination of the following strategies shall be selected by the water supplier, in addition to the minimum requirements in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, if they are necessary to achieve the stated water conservation goals of the plan. The commission may require that any of the following strategies be implemented by the water supplier if the commission determines that the strategy is necessary to achieve the goals of the water conservation plan:

(A) conservation-oriented water rates and water rate structures such as uniform or increasing block rate schedules, and/or seasonal rates, but not flat rate or decreasing block rates;

(B) adoption of ordinances, plumbing codes, and/or rules requiring water-conserving plumbing fixtures to be installed in new structures and existing structures undergoing substantial modification or addition;

(C) a program for the replacement or retrofit of water-conserving plumbing fixtures in existing structures;

(D) reuse and/or recycling of wastewater and/or gray water;

(E) a program for pressure control and/or reduction in the distribution system and/or for customer connections;

(F) a program and/or ordinance(s) for landscape water management water system to determine illegal connections, abandoned services, etc.);

(F) a program of continuing public education and information regarding water conservation;

(G) a water rate structure which is not "promotional," i.e., a rate structure which is cost-based and which does not encourage the excessive use of water;

(H) a reservoir systems operations plan, if applicable, providing for the coordinated operation of reservoirs owned by the applicant within a common watershed or river basin in order to optimize available water supplies; and

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(C) a program for the replacement or retrofit of water-conserving plumbing fixtures in existing structures;

(D) reuse and/or recycling of wastewater and/or greywater;

(E) a program for pressure control and/or reduction in the distribution system and/or for customer connections;

(F) a program and/or ordinance(s) for landscape water management

(G) a method for monitoring the effectiveness and efficiency of the water conservation plan; and

(H) any other water conservation practice, method, or technique which the water supplier shows to be appropriate for achieving the stated goal or goals of the water conservation plan.

Texas

All water conservation plans for municipal uses by public drinking water suppliers shall include the following elements:

(I) a means of implementation and enforcement which shall be evidenced by:

(i) a copy of the ordinance, resolution, or tariff, indicating official adoption of the water conservation plan by the water supplier; and

(ii) a description of the authority by which the water supplier will implement and enforce the conservation plan.

GRADE: A-

QUESTION	ANSWER	POINTS
1. State agency in charge of drinking water conservation?	Yes	1
2. Water consumption regulation for toilets?	Yes	2
3. Water consumption regulation for showerheads?	No	0
4. Water consumption regulation for urinals?	Yes	1
5. Water consumption regulation for clothes washers?	No	0
6. Water consumption regulation for pre-rinse spray valves?	No	0
7. Mandatory building or plumbing codes?	Yes	2
8. Water loss regulation or policy?	Yes	2
9. Conservation activities as part of water permitting process?	Yes	1
10. Drought emergency plans required?	Yes	2
11. Conservation planning required separate from drought plans?	Yes	2
12. Authority to approve or reject conservation plans?	Yes	1
13. How often are plans required?	5 Years	2
14. Planning framework or methodology?	Yes	2
15. Implementation of conservation measures required?	Yes	3
16. State funding for urban water conservation programs?	Yes	2
17. Technical assistance for urban water conservation programs?	Yes	2
18. Does the state require volumetric billing?	Yes	1
19. Percent of publicly supplied connections that are metered?	N/A	0
20. ET microclimate information for urban landscapes?	Yes	1
EXTRA CREDIT		3
TOTAL		29