



**City of Yakima Water System**  
**Water Use Efficiency Goals and Measures**

**Background**

In 2003, the Washington State Legislature passed Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1338, better known as the Municipal Water Law, to address the increasing demand on our state's water resources. The law established that all municipal water suppliers must use water more efficiently in exchange for water right certainty and flexibility to help them meet future demand. The Legislature directed the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt an enforceable Water Use Efficiency (WUE) program, which became effective on January 22, 2007. The requirements of the program are summarized in Table 1.

<b>Table 1 Summary of Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Program Requirements</b>		
<b>Requirement</b>	<b>Deadline for municipal water suppliers with 1,000 or more connections</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Begin collecting production and consumption data	January 1, 2007	Already in place
Include WUE program in planning documents	January 22, 2008	Needs to be included in next WSP update due in 2010
Set your own WUE goals	January 22, 2008	Adopted January 15, 2008
Submit service meter installation schedule	July 1, 2008	System already fully metered
Submit first annual performance report	July 1, 2008	To be submitted by deadline
Meet distribution leakage standard (based on 3-year rolling average)	July 1, 2010	To be established as one of the WUE goals
Complete installation of all service meters	January 22, 2017	System already fully metered

## Water Use Efficiency Goals

The regulation (WAC 246-290-830) requires the governing body of the municipal water system (the Yakima City Council in this case) to develop the water use efficiency goals through a public process. The City Council adopted these Goals in a public meeting at the regular January 15, 2008 City Council meeting. The Water Use Efficiency Goals are as follows:

1. Reduce Distribution System Loss to 10% or less by July 1, 2010.
2. Maintain the current residential per capita use (average water use per person per day)<sup>1</sup>

## Water Use Efficiency Measures

As part of a water system plan, DOH regulations also require the implementation a specified number of water use efficiency measures. Systems with more than 10,000 service connections (such as the City of Yakima) are required to implement nine WUE measures. The evaluation and selection of measures should be related to the cost-effectiveness of the measures. The City's next Water System Plan (WSP) is not due until 2010. The evaluation of WUE measures will be part of the WSP update planning process. However, a preliminary evaluation of possible measures indicates that those likely to be cost effective are the ones listed in Table 2 and were adopted by the City Council on January 15, 2008.

<b>Table 2 Recommended Water Use Efficiency Measures (nine measures required)</b>		
<b>Indoor Residential</b>	<b>Outdoor and Large Separately Metered Irrigation Customers</b>	<b>Industrial/Commercial/Institutional</b>
Conservation rates	Conservation rates	Conservation rates
Customer leak detection education	Water bill showing consumption history	Water bill showing consumption history
Water bill showing consumption history	Soil moisture sensors	Using reclaimed water (WWTP)
Customer Education (bill stuffers)		

<sup>1</sup> This goal is appropriate since the Yakima Water System is not expanding and current per capita use is already low based estimates in the 2004 Water System Plan update.