

# Working towards a Water Strategy for New Brunswick:

## Water Use and Conservation

### Water Use Today

Water is essential to our everyday lives. We use it for a wide variety of purposes including drinking, manufacturing, electricity, transportation, fisheries and recreation.

Water also plays a big role in our communities and is often managed by municipalities that use public water systems to deliver a reliable supply of water to our households, schools, hospitals and local businesses.

Canadians have consistently ranked among the world's highest users of water. High water use can contribute to a wide variety of environmental and economic problems, such as water shortages, the drawdown of aquifers, increased concentration of pollutants in water bodies, and the costly expansion of water and wastewater infrastructure.

Today we use more water than ever before. Modern technology has produced many conveniences such as dishwashers, washing machines and sprinklers that make our tasks easier,

but waste ever increasing amounts of water.

Within Canadian households, a very small portion of the water treated to drinking water standards is actually used for potable needs. Up to 30 percent of household water is used to flush toilets. In the summer, we use it to water our lawns and for other landscaping activities. According to Environment Canada, drinking and cooking consumes only about 5 per cent of indoor residential water use.



<http://ottawa.ca/en/residents/water-and-environment/drinking-water/water-consumption>

### Water Conservation

Whenever water is used, there is the potential to conserve it, both in and around the home and community. Water conservation involves minimizing our impacts by using less water and reducing waste. It is good practice and often involves simple, common sense techniques such as reducing our water use when possible, repairing leaks in plumbing fixtures, retrofitting existing appliances and investing in water and

energy efficient options when replacing water using devices.

Conserving water also reduces wear and tear on major resources such as water and wastewater treatment plants and the distribution systems that deliver water to our homes and communities.

Here are some reasons why you might want to use less water:

- Save money on your water bills.
- Save money on your power bills: using less energy to heat and pump water.
- Make your home sewage disposal system last longer by not overloading it.
- Be a good environmental steward.

Keeping an adequate supply of high-quality water flowing from taps and disposing of wastewater requires a lot of effort and expense. With today's costs of water, sewer service, and energy, water conservation through efficient plumbing fixtures and appliances can result in significant homeowner savings.

#### Water Conservation Tips

- Watering lawns sparingly or not at all saves up to 17,000 litres per household over the summer.
- Full loads of laundry and shorter cycles can save 95 litres per load.
- Low-flow toilets save 6-14 litres per flush.
- Aerators on kitchen taps save up to 20 litres per day.
- Fixed leaks in kitchen and bathroom taps save 47 litres per day.

Learn about more easy ways to reduce water consumption in your home and save money with the following tips: [http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/environment/content/water/content/water\\_conservation.html](http://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/elg/environment/content/water/content/water_conservation.html)

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