WATER IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

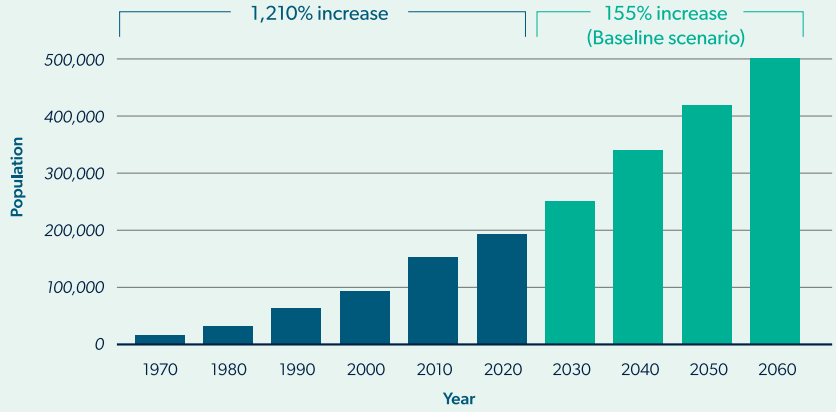
CONSERVATION'S ESSENTIAL ROLE IN MEETING CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS

Washington County is Utah's hottest and driest region. The county's major population centers depend exclusively on the Virgin River basin for water. The Virgin River basin is a small, drought-prone desert tributary that has been fully developed. **The county is currently using more than 90% of its annual reliable water supply.**[1] Additional water conservation and new supply development are essential to protect the county's current and future economy and population.

Population Growth

Washington County is one of the nation's fastest growing regions. Current state population projections estimate the county will increase by 155% by 2060.[2]

In addition to residents, Washington County attracts more than 6 million annual visitors[3] and thousands of seasonal residents who own more than 20% of the county's homes.[4] The high visitor volume and seasonal population add significantly to Washington County's water demand.



Water Conservation Achievements

Washington County has reduced its per capita water use more than 30% since 2000 – the highest reduction in Utah.[5]

#1

Washington County was the first in Utah to:

- Implement a water conservation plan
- Adopt the state's most aggressive water conservation goal
- Eliminate municipal "take or pay" water contracts
- Create a desert demonstration garden

Meeting Future Water Demands

Washington County's Long-term Water Supply Plan

- Additional water conservation and reuse
- Local supply optimization
- Available agricultural water conversion
- New resource development

The Washington County Water Conservancy District (district), in partnership with its municipal partners, has invested more than $70 million in recent conservation efforts.

[1] Based on the State of Utah's source sizing requirement per equivalent residential connection
[2] Utah Long-Term Planning Projection, Kem C Gardner Policy Institute at the University of Utah, 2022
[3] Greater Zion Convention & Tourism Office, 2020
[4] Washington County, UT Assessors Office, 2020
[5] Municipal and Industrial Water Use Data, Utah Division of Water Resources, 2019

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WASHINGTON COUNTY WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

Water Conservation Goal

Washington County is striving for an additional 14% reduction in per capita water use by 2030, using 2015 as the baseline. The estimated cost for this level of conservation is $12 million annually.[6]

Water Conservation Price Structure

Utah state law requires that all public water providers have tiered water conservation rates, but the district's board of trustees has passed an "excessive water use fee" in which water users that exceed a specific volume of water per month would be assessed an additional fee of $1.00 per 1,000 gallons. The district anticipates implementing the new fee in 2022. Money generated by the new fee will be used to offset water conservation program costs.

Water Conservation Program Audit

A 2018 audit of the district's water conservation program conducted by nationally-renowned Maddaus Water Management concluded that the "water efficient program is on par with other notable programs in the western United States and exceeds those of other entities of a similar size and customer base."[7]

Water Conservation Ordinances

The district supports the following municipal ordinances:

- **Time-of-day watering –** prohibits irrigating with potable water between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. during the summer season
- **Water waste –** prohibits excessive irrigation, runoff and leaks
- **Water-efficiency standards for new construction –** establishes a standard for new construction that:
  - Requires hot water recirculation systems and individually-metered units, with minor exceptions
  - Prohibits grass outside of active recreation areas in commercial, institutional and industrial developments
  - Limits car wash facilities to a specified number of gallons per washed vehicle
  - Establishes a water budget for golf courses and requires irrigation with secondary water
  - Prohibits outdoor misting system use when temperatures are under 90 degrees

[6] Municipal and Industrial Water Use Data, Utah Division of Water Resources, 2015

[7] Water Conservation Programs: A Comparative Analysis, Maddaus Water Management, 2018

Existing Water Conservation Programs

- Real water loss reduction
- Tiered water conservation rate
- Advanced metering infrastructure
- Weather-based irrigation controller rebates
- Irrigation equipment rebates
- Efficient outdoor watering education
- Outdoor water audit
- Tree coupon
- Public and school education
- School building retrofit
- High-efficiency fixture giveaway
- Commercial washing machine rebate
- Commercial toilet and urinal rebate

New Water Conservation Programs

- Landscape conversion (grass removal) rebate
- New development standards
- Hot water on demand rebate
- Residential landscape design consultations
- Leak devices/flow sensor rebate
- Water audits for hotels/motels
- Customized incentive program for high water users