

San Antonio Water System Five Year Conservation Plan

Executive Summary

Water conservation is treated as a supply in the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) 2012 Water Management Plan. The plan builds on the San Antonio history of conservation success by making the strategic choice to focus on reduced per capita during challenging dry years. The Conservation Plan describes the current customer water use patterns and outlines strategies that will be used to acquire over 500 million gallons of water through conservation programs based on these water use patterns. This plan is designed to accumulate over 16,000 acre feet of supply by the year 2020.

SAWS will build on three proven strategies to achieve successful reductions in per capita. These strategies will be more focused on landscape and irrigation water use reductions than in the past. Program make-up will change and improve based on evaluations.

Education & Outreach: Reach over 120,000 customers annually with direct conservation education.

- Conservation Consultations at homes and businesses
- Conservation Workshops
- Conservation Education Events
- GardenStyleSA.com web education and e-newsletter
- Personalized Conservation Reports

Effective Incentives: Utilize rebates, coupons and materials to change practices and behaviors.

- Grass removal coupons for materials needed for landscape redesign
- Irrigation efficiency rebates
- Custom rebates for innovative efficiency upgrades at homes and businesses

Reasonable Regulation: Work with customers to ensure clear understanding of efficiency practices.

- Irrigation Check-Ups for Large Properties
- Certification of Car Wash Operations
- New Home WaterSaver Landscapes In Cooperation with Builders/Developers

While water conservation has always been a priority in San Antonio, it has become a high profile state requirement with mandatory Five-Year Conservation Plans and annual Conservation Reports that are included in Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) water supply loan applications. The success of San Antonio with conservation planning and progress makes our community well-positioned for state water supply funding.

Conservation progress will be measured through program evaluations and reported in the annual conservation reports due to the TWDB. The Community Conservation Committee meets with SAWS Conservation staff monthly to review to program progress and to provide feedback on program design.