

Conservation enforced during dry periods and the sense of emergency prevailing during droughts are soon forgotten in times of plentiful rainfall.

Water conservation must be practiced regularly and consistently -- in times of plenty as well as in times of drought. Water saving measures also save energy, including the cost of pumping water, treatment and wastewater disposal.

Recent state and federal laws have added new priorities for water planning. New policies and requirements cover water and energy conservation, environmental and socioeconomic impacts, and cost-effectiveness analyses. Improvement in the efficiency of water use can help achieve many of these goals.

This report, consistent with the authority of the Oklahoma Water Resources Board as stated in Title 82 Oklahoma Statutes Section 1085.2, is concerned with urban and domestic water conservation. It is intended to provide public water suppliers, both municipal and rural, with a foundation of knowledge on available measures for obtaining more efficient use of our water supplies.

The information contained herein is derived from a diverse group of sources. The state's current water use is discussed along with potential water savings that can be realized through installation of specific water-saving devices in new homes and through retrofitting in existing homes (where feasible).

The report is designed to serve as a handbook for designing a local water conservation plan, outlining suggestions and methods that have proven successful for public water suppliers across the country.