

The table below summarizes the advantages and disadvantages of supply management.

TABLE 4

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
Operating costs can be reduced	Some programs are expensive
Program is not dependent on users	A lot of labor is not dependent on users
Lost revenues can be recovered	Long lead time usually required for implementation
Flexibility can be maintained (i.e., it is possible to introduce a demand management program to meet emerging or changing circumstances if further reduction is needed.	

The ability of supply management to reduce water use will vary according to the age and conditions of the water system and regular system improvement and replacement programs.¹⁶

Supply management programs which could be effective in reducing water use are metering, leak detection and repair, pressure reduction, watershed management, and evaporation suppression. Each of these programs is briefly discussed in the following narrative.

Metering

Metering is not an actual conservation technique in itself since it neither reduces water loss nor encourages use reduction. However, metering does provide an accurate accounting of all water uses throughout the system and can, therefore, be used in supply management programs such as leak detection and repair as well as in certain demand management programs.