

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY

Increasing public concern for preservation of the value of our water resources and the continually increasing cost of water development have emphasized the need to investigate alternative methods of satisfying rising water demands. In this report, water conservation is discussed as one method that can be effectively utilized to address a variety of water supply problems.

Municipal water use is second only to irrigation in demands on state water resources. An analysis of residential practices reveals substantial water savings can be realized through retrofitting with water-saving devices in existing homes and installation of water efficient plumbing fixtures in new and replacement construction.

A seven-step procedure developed by the New England River Basins Commission is presented, detailing the design of a local water conservation plan. The procedure is designed to accommodate the distinctive needs of individual communities, reflecting the local legal institutional setting. Public water suppliers are encouraged to first utilize supply management, conserving within the supply system, before attempting demand management. Saving water within the supply system is relatively straightforward, while relying on users makes the plan more complex.

Among options available to a water supplier are the supply management tools of metering, leak detection and repair, pressure