Water Use Efficiency
Annual Performance Report - 2010

WS Name: BELLINGHAM-WATER DIVISION, CITY OF Water System ID#: 05600 WS County: WHATCOM
Report submitted by: Anitra Accetturo

Meter Installation Information:
Is your water system fully metered? No
If not fully metered - Current status of meter installation:
Approximately 9,300 metered water accounts and 15,400 flat-rate water accounts. The City will be in compliance with the metering mandate by 2017.

Production, Authorized Consumption, and Distribution System Leakage Information:
12-Month WUE Reporting Period: To
Incomplete or missing data for the year? No

Distribution System Leakage Summary:
Total Water Produced and Purchased (TP) – Annual Volume 3,517,397,564 gallons
Authorized Consumption (AC) – Annual Volume gallons
Distribution System Leakage – Annual Volume TP – AC 3,517,397,564 gallons
Distribution System Leakage – Percent DSL = [(TP – AC) / TP] x 100 0.0 %
3-year annual average %

Goal-Setting Information:
Date of Most Recent Public Forum: Has goal been changed since last performance report? No
Note: Customer goal must be re-established every 6 years through a public process

WUE Goals:
Customer Goal (Demand Side):
1. Maintain city-wide water consumption at an average of 105 gallons per capita per day (gpcd) for residential use, and 77 gpcd for non-residential use for the next six years.
2. Keep city-wide water demand equal to, or below, city population growth rate for the next six years.

Describe Progress in Reaching Goals:
Customer (Demand Side) Goal Progress:
An estimated 24 million gallons of water was conserved in 2010 through the City of Bellingham’s Water Conservation Program. There was significantly less water savings in 2010 (24 million gallons) compared to 2009 (61 million gallons) due to the discovery of a substantial water leak on a water service and the doubling of mileage of water main inspected through the leak detection program of 2009. The 2010 estimated water savings were achieved through the City’s adopted water conservation program measures: public outreach (rain barrel program, leak detection, water conservation kit distribution), single-family water audit/rebate pilot project, multi-unit residential water audit/rebate pilot project, irrigation water customer class water audit/rebate pilot project, and the City’s Community Energy Challenge and Water Conservation Program partnership rebate pilot.

Additional Information Regarding Supply and Demand Side WUE Efforts

Include any other information that describes how you and your customers use water efficiently:

As the City of Bellingham moves towards a fully metered water system, the Water Conservation Program has focused outreach to its customers on active and passive water conservation measures that help to reduce peak demand, incentivize high water use fixture replacements, reduce energy costs to providing drinking water, and minimize water loss. These measures contribute to both supply and demand side reductions in water consumption.

The active and more behavioral measures of the program constitute the promotion of a shift in how and what we use drinking water for. Pairing the appropriate water source for the appropriate use – such as rain barrels for outdoor water needs, is an active strategy that assists in reducing water use during peak demand periods, a reduction in energy consumption, and in laying a foundation for alternative ways a customer may reduce their water bill when all residential water customers are metered. Interest in the City’s rain barrel program and rainwater catchment continues to double annually. Passive and more technological measures include incentivizing high water use fixture replacement with low-flow comparables through a rebate program and partnership with the Community Energy Challenge (http://www.communityenergychallenge.org/) and city-wide leak detection on water mains and abutting water services. The significant water savings that have resulted from recent years of leak detection have prompted city staff to increase leak detection funding in 2012 and beyond. Additionally, an air scouring system for the filters installed at the Water Treatment Plant in 2010 saves an estimated 170,000 gallons of water per day in the backwash step of the water treatment process. All of these strategies help to minimize supply & demand water loss and waste in the present while also providing a solid foundation for future metering implementation and water use reductions.

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