

What CRWP Members are Doing to Save Water How We Walk our Water Conservation Talk

During times of Snow Drought and hot, dry summers, Clackamas River Water Provider (CRWP) Members look to their customers for home, business, and industrial water efficiency. To ensure customers are successfully conserving their drinking water, CRWP members have water conservation programs that provide many different tools, resources, and programs meant to reduce both indoor and outdoor water use.

But, what are CRWP Members doing to ensure water efficiency throughout the process of making and delivering drinking water to their customers?

CRWP Member Water Management and Conservation Plans (WMCP), Treatment Plant Conservation Measures are designed to minimize water loss during the treatment process and optimize operational efficiency, acting as a "supply-side" conservation strategy.

Key treatment plant conservation measures practiced by CRWP members include:

Filter Backwash Recycling/Optimization: Instead of wasting water used to clean filters, drinking water treatment plants often look to reclaim or minimize the amount of treated water used to wash filters.

Leak Detection and Repair: Regular inspections and maintenance of treatment plant piping, valves, and storage facilities to prevent water loss before it enters the distribution system.

Accurate Production Metering: Full, accurate metering of raw water taken from the Clackamas River and finished water produced to ensure high production efficiency.

System Audit Programs: Conducting annual water audits to account for all water produced, allowing operators to compare total production against metered sales to identify unaccounted-for water.

Operational Optimization: Utilizing advanced technology and automated systems to monitor water levels, control pressures, and reduce storage tank overflows.

Source Water Protection: Proactively managing the Clackamas River watershed to maintain high raw water quality, which reduces the amount of treatment chemicals and water required to meet EPA standards.

These measures are part of the larger WMCPs required by the Oregon Water Resources Department to ensure sustainable water use and reduce the need for premature expansion of treatment facilities.

CRWP Members' WMCP, Distribution System Conservation Measures are mandatory, proactive steps to manage and reduce water loss in the municipal water supply system or distribution system during the process of delivering drinking water to their customers.

These measures are required to meet the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) standards as part of water right permit conditions. The specific steps and required measures for water distribution systems include:

Conduct Annual Water System Audits: A systematic, documented methodology to track water loss, including auditing for authorized unmetered usage and unauthorized usage.

Implement Leak Detection Programs: Systematic inspection of the distribution system to identify and fix leaks, often involving pressure management.

Full Metering of the Water System: Ensuring all service connections are metered to track consumption and identify potential system losses.

Water Meter Testing and Maintenance Programs: Regular testing, repairing, and replacing of aging meters to ensure accuracy.

Water Rate Structure Optimization: Implementing rate structures based on the quantity of water metered to encourage conservation.

Water Line Rehabilitation/Replacement: Conducting annual water line rehabilitation programs to improve efficiency.

Infrastructure Management: Managing pump stations and pressure zones to reduce demand during off-peak times and maintain efficient operational pressures.

Water Management and Conservation Plans requirements are in accordance with [Oregon Administrative Rules \(OAR Chapter 690, Division 86\)](#).

Additionally, CRWP members upgrade their offices and treatment plants with the same technologies they promote to the public:

Facility & Building Retrofits

High-Efficiency Fixtures: Replacing standard toilets with Ultra-Low Flow (ULF) or dual-flush models and installing faucet aerators and sensed sinks.

Sustainable Landscaping (Xeriscape)

Water providers often use their own grounds as "demonstration gardens" for the community.

Native Planting: Replacing thirsty turf grass with native or climate-appropriate plants that require little to no supplemental water once established.

Smart Irrigation: Using weather-based irrigation controllers (WBICs) or soil moisture sensors to ensure agency landscapes are only watered when necessary.

Recycled Water Use: Utilizing treated graywater or non-potable water for onsite irrigation and dust control.

Employee Training & Culture Conservation is integrated into the agency's internal management.

Staff Education: Training maintenance staff on O&M (Operations and Maintenance) procedures specifically for water-efficient technologies.

CRWP members use treatment plant and distribution system conservation measures and internal conservation practices to ensure we are conserving the Clackamas River water while we make and deliver drinking water to our communities. We can't ask you to do your best in conserving the drinking water, if we aren't doing our best.