

Columbia Basin Water Smart is aiming for a 20 per cent Basin-wide reduction in domestic water consumption by 2015. This target was chosen based on current water conservation studies, discussions with water experts, existing provincial water conservation targets, and water conservation targets already achieved by other BC municipalities.

Importance of Water Conservation

Water Conservation is a local, regional, national and global issue. Inefficient use of water can have significant social, cultural, environmental and economic impacts. Canada is the second highest per capita water user

in the world, BC is one of the highest per capita water users in Canada, and, in the Columbia Basin, we have some of the highest per capita water use in the province.

As our communities grow and the impacts of our changing climate increase, we need to effectively manage our shared water resources to continue the quality of life Basin residents enjoy, and to ensure a healthy water supply for future generations. Water is valued for several reasons including domestic, environmental, economical, and cultural — collectively we can work together on a balanced water conservation approach.

In BC, we use an average of 490 litres of water per person per day; the Canadian average is 330 litres per day

(www.livingwatersmart.ca)

Be Water Smart

- ✓ Install low flow toilets, faucets, and showerheads.
- ✓ Repair leaky faucets.
- ✓ Turn off taps when washing your hands, brushing your teeth, shaving or washing vegetables.
- ✓ Take shorter showers.
- ✓ Run dishwashers and washing machines with full loads.
- ✓ Install a timer or an underground sprinkler system.
- ✓ Collect rainwater to water your lawn and garden.
- ✓ Sweep or rake your driveway or footpath.
- ✓ Plant drought tolerant and native plants in your yard.
- ✓ Keep cold water in the fridge for drinking.

