

**Proposed Action for Municipal and Domestic Water Conservation  
Yakima River Basin Study/Integrated Plan**

*The Out-of-Stream Water Needs Subcommittee of the YRBWEP Workgroup recommends the following actions comprise the Municipal and Domestic Water Conservation element of the Integrated Water Resources Management Plan.*

1. Convene a locally-based **Advisory Committee** on municipal and domestic water conservation to organize outreach to local elected officials and provide liaison with Reclamation, WDOE and WDOH. Achieving effective and efficient compliance with current State requirements for water use efficiency could be a near-term objective (1 – 2 years); while generating support to go beyond the minimum state requirements could be a longer-range objective (2 – 5 years).
2. Assuming the Integrated Plan will include a block of supply for municipal use and municipal/domestic mitigation; then create **standards for access to the new supply**. For example, to be eligible for access to the new supply, communities would need to:
  - implement rate structures that encourage water conservation;
  - Meet targets (to be defined) for reducing residential water use per capita by 2020 and 2030 (note it is much easier to define a standard for household use than for commercial and industrial use);
  - Meet the State-required standard for water loss of 10% or less; and/or
  - offer a comprehensive menu of conservation program options for their customers or constituents.
3. As part of the Integrated Plan, **create a fund** to promote water use efficiency basin-wide using voluntary, incentive-based programs. Focus on outdoor uses as top priority. Funding would need to be on the order of \$0.5M to \$1.5M per year in order to make substantial progress.
  - **Option 1:** Administer basin-wide to gain economies of scale.
  - **Option 2:** Competitive grants to local communities for their own programs.
4. The Advisory Committee identified above should focus particular attention on education, incentives and other measures to **encourage residential and commercial users to improve efficiency of landscape irrigation, where the source of supply is agricultural irrigation canals or ditches**. This includes residential and urban lands within irrigation districts, as well as other lands where dual water delivery systems are present (potable water plus irrigation water).