

2021

# WATER USE EFFICIENCY REPORT

FOR CUSTOMERS OF ASOTIN COUNTY PUD — MAY 2021

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY—WATER CONSERVATION REGULATION

This is the annual edition of the Asotin County PUD Water Use Efficiency Report. In 2003 the Washington State Legislature passed a law commonly called the Municipal Water Bill. One of the provisions of the law was to direct the State Department of Health to develop and adopt rules governing water use efficiency and water conservation by public water system throughout the state. After a lengthy process, the Water Use Efficiency (WUE) Rule was adopted in January 2007. The WUE Rule requires that public water systems develop water use efficiency - water conservation goals. The PUD developed both supply side (PUD) and demand side (customer) goals and held a public hearing on January 22, 2008. After the public hearing the PUD Board of Commissioners adopted the original goals. In 2018, the PUD completed an update of its Comprehensive Water System Plan. Included in this Plan was an update of the Water Use Efficiency Plan (Plan) and goals. The WUE Rule requires public water systems to report annually to their customers on the progress they are making toward reaching the goals. In this Report we will detail the goals adopted and demonstrate how we are meeting them.

## WATER USE EFFICIENCY— WATER CONSERVATION PLAN

The PUD adopted 6 goals for the 2018-2023 period. Along with continuing our successful program of finding and repairing leaks and looking for opportunities to conserve water, the Plan outlines customer educational and conservation measures that will assist our customer-owners in saving water and money. The PUD selected the following objectives for its water conservation program:

- Target cost effective activities that result in the greatest water savings for initial implementation.
- Be balanced and equitable, rather than unduly burden any one customer class or industry.
- Prioritize education because it results in long-term changes in water use habits.
- Meet or exceed the minimum requirements established by Washington State Department of Health
- Be primarily voluntary, assistance-oriented and informational, rather than restrictive or forced.

## Water Use Efficiency Goals & Measures

The PUD conservation program is driven by the desire to reduce system leakage both in the PUD distribution system and the customer's water system, to reduce operating costs, to educate and provide opportunities for customers to reduce their water consumption and to meet regulatory requirements.

### Supply-Side (PUD) Water Use Efficiency Measures

The Asotin PUD Supply-Side (PUD) conservation program consists of the two (2) measures listed below.

#### Distribution System Leakage of 10% or less of production

It is the goal of the Asotin PUD to perform annual leak detection surveys and to repair leaking distribution mains in a timely manner. This will ensure that we keep our water system leakage below 10% of production. 2020 distribution system leakage was 7.62%. The ten year average is 6.50%. **We are currently meeting the goal of keeping our water system leakage below 10% of production.**

#### Replace Customer Service Meters and Source Production Meters

The Asotin PUD initiated an Automated Meter Reading program in 2004 which provided for the replacement and retrofitting of inaccurate and outdated meters with new electronic meters. The AMR customer meter replacement/retrofit program was completed in March 2012. In addition the PUD has replaced all propeller driven source production meters with more accurate magnetic meters. Replacing both service and source meters ensures accurate readings and allows for better analysis of water loss resulting in repair of system and customer service leaks. Accurate customer meter readings will encourage customer conservation. **We met this goal with the completion of the meter replacement/retrofit program in March 2012.**

## **Demand-Side (Customer) Water Use Efficiency Measures**

The Asotin PUD Demand-Side (Customer) conservation program for the 2018-2023 period consists of the six (6) measures listed below. These measures have been selected due to a combination of factors including applicability to the PUD service area, customer acceptance, cost effectiveness, and/or savings potential.

### **Billing Statements Showing Consumptive History**

The Asotin PUD will continue to show consumptive history on customer billing statements. Customer bills providing historical consumption data allow customers to understand how their use varies throughout the year and from year to year. This information helps customers make informed choices about how they manage their water use, including implementing conservation. Asotin PUD customer bills have included historical consumption data since the 1990's. The bills show customer consumption for the same period from the previous year.

### **Customer Education**

The Asotin PUD will continue to provide conservation information and tips on its website, in its customer handbook, customer brochures and on customer bills. The PUD will continue to provide and make available to students and teachers water and water conservation education programs. Education includes sponsoring and providing programs such as Xeriscape landscaping practices and irrigation efficiency.

### **Free Toilet Leak Detection Dye Tablets**

This measure provides free toilet leak detection dye tablets for customers to determine if their toilets leak and provides detailed information on how to fix leaks. This measure applies to single family and multifamily sectors, both existing and new customers, as well as to businesses with tank style toilets. Only tank style toilets are targeted since most leaks occur in that type of toilet, usually via flapper leaks.

### **Free Bathroom Faucet Aerators**

This measure provides free bathroom faucet aerators for residential customers to replace less efficient aerators. The aerators will be 1.0 gallons per minute (gpm), which is more efficient than the maximum 2.5 gpm allowed under the plumbing code for residential sectors. The target audience includes both existing and new customers.

### **Free Showerheads**

This measure provides free low flow showerheads to residential customers. The main flow rate on the showerheads is 2.0 gpm, which is more efficient than the maximum 2.5 gpm allowed under the plumbing code. The showerheads also have a built in "soap & shave valve", which is a button that can be pressed to reduce the flow rate to 1.0 gpm while soaping up or shaving that do not require the full stream of water. The target audience is single family and multifamily sectors, both existing and new customers.

### **Irrigation Efficiencies and Landscape Management**

The Asotin PUD will partner with local colleges and university extension offices to provide customer education regarding irrigation efficiencies and landscape management. The PUD will utilize staff at the colleges and extension offices to provide expert advice and services in developing programs that promote irrigation and water use efficiencies. The PUD will also apply irrigation efficiencies and landscape management at its own facilities to reduce water use and promote drought tolerant landscaping. A new water efficient landscape was planted in 2014 and 2015 at the PUD office site.

**The PUD has and will continue to work towards meeting the goals listed above. The PUD has provided nearly 7,000 water conservation kits to customers. Assuming installation, the estimated water savings from faucet aerators and showerheads, provided in these kits, is 19,000 gallons per day. The goal, by the end of 2023, is to conserve 40,000 gallons per day.**

**A full copy of the Asotin County PUD Water Use Efficiency—Water Conservation Plan can be found on our website at [asotinpud.org](http://asotinpud.org). Just click on the tab "Water Conservation" and click on "Water Use Efficiency."**