

Community Conservation and Collaboration



Population

(in Millions)

+547%

UP

from 1957-2021

Water Use

(in Millions Acre-feet)

-3%

DOWN

from 1957-2019

Source: Census, ADWR

It's no secret that Arizona's population has grown steadily over the years. Since the 1950s, it's grown five-fold. But here's an amazing fact – due to significant investments in conservation, water reuse and infrastructure, **our water use is essentially the same as it was more than half a century ago!** This is due to Mandatory Conservation Efforts that have been in place for decades and Community Collaboration that has resulted in a strong conservation culture.

Arizona's Mandatory Conservation Efforts

100-Year Assured Water Supply

Since the early 1980s, Arizona has mandated conservation and water-use reporting in the state's most populated areas. With its requirement of a **100-year renewable water supply for all new development**, together with water conservation mandates for municipal, industrial and agricultural water users, Arizona's groundbreaking 1980 Groundwater Management Act is known as one of the most robust water management strategies in the United States.

The 1980 Groundwater Management Act Requires

- 1 Mandatory Conservation for Agricultural, Industrial & Municipal Water Users
- 2 100-Year Assured Water Supply

Required of 85.6% of the state's population

Arizona Conservation

The 1980 Groundwater Management Act set the stage for many conservation activities that have been a way of life in Arizona for decades. This includes:



- Best management practices by cities with conservation programs (citizen outreach, classes and rebates)
- Xeriscape (low water-use landscaping) in public medians and right-of-ways – no grass allowed
- Strict plumbing codes in all municipal buildings
- Restrictions on turf, as well as artificial, decorative lakes
- Regulatory management plans including progressively more rigorous mandatory conservation requirements for agricultural, municipal and industrial water users

Community Collaboration

Conserving Water Is What Arizonans Do

Dating back to our earliest inhabitants, those who live in the Sonoran Desert have adapted to an arid environment. **Our collective commitment to efficient water use has created one of the strongest and longest running water conservation programs in the nation.** These programs increase our resiliency, avoiding the need for Arizona to impose additional water restrictions during this time of prolonged drought.

Since 2020, Arizona has strengthened its conservation efforts by:

- **Committing \$1.4 billion** for long-term water augmentation, reuse and conservation projects
- **Signing a Memorandum of Understanding** with 30 water agencies and providers throughout the Lower Colorado River Basin to affirm our commitment to implement comprehensive and innovative water conservation programs, initiatives, policies and actions within Arizona communities

REUSE

How is Recycled Water used?



Cities have been maximizing the use of their treated wastewater for decades by putting the vast majority to beneficial use for energy production, creating riparian habitats, irrigating sports fields, golf courses, non-edible crops, commercial landscapes, and recharging aquifers by storing water underground for use during a shortage.

Here's how you can conserve at home

While Arizona water managers have been diligently working on these issues, you can do your part, as well. **Here are some resources to get you started:**

- Visit WaterUseItWisely.com for 100+ tips on how you can save water.
- The **Arizona Municipal Water Users Association (AMWUA)** and its members have created numerous tools to help you use water more efficiently inside your home and outdoors, including how to design, build, and maintain a beautiful water-efficient landscape. Visit amwua.org to learn more.
- Learn more at ArizonaWaterFacts.com or from SRP at srp.net/conservation.

Arizona has mandated conservation for municipal water providers for more than 40 years. Cities have responded with proactive conservation programs and steadily built a strong conservation culture in their communities.

Contact your water provider for more information.



new.azwater.gov



KnowYourWaterNews.com



AMWUA.org



srpnet.com