

Community Conservation and Collaboration



Population (in Millions)

+547%

Water Use (in Millions Acre-feet)

-3%

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 has actually decreased since the mid-1950s.** Our water use reductions are the result of conservation efforts that have been in place for decades as well as the cooperative efforts of urban and rural, municipal and agricultural water users 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 assured water supply for all new subdivisions**, 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.

The Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona (WIFA) plays a key role in strengthening community collaboration by providing grants and low-cost financing for critical water projects. WIFA's innovative financing has supported communities across the state in upgrading water systems (more than 100 communities served), expanding reuse and conservation programs (7.5 million acre-feet conserved), and investing in long-term resilience through augmentation. By empowering local providers to pursue innovative solutions, WIFA helps strengthen Arizona's collective water resilience.

REUSE

How is Recycled Water used?



For decades, cities have maximized the use of recycled water for beneficial purposes, such as generating energy, creating riparian habitats, irrigating sports fields, golf courses, non-edible crops, and commercial landscapes, and replenishing groundwater aquifers. Municipal water providers continue to explore innovative ways to extend and strengthen their water supplies. One practical solution is expanding the use of recycled water through advanced purified water treatment technology. Water managers view this approach as efficient and cost-effective on a large scale, making it the next logical step in sustainable water management for those who choose to invest in the technology.

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 developed many resources to help you use water more efficiently both inside your home and outdoors. These include rebates and incentives, free workshops and tips on designing, building, and maintaining 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