

SAVING WATER OUTDOORS:

Well over half of a typical household's water consumption is for outdoor use, mostly for irrigating lawns and plants that are not adapted to our semi-arid climate.

Replacing thirsty turf grasses with native and drought-resistant plants can save tens of thousands of gallons per household each year. These plants also don't require the chemical fertilizers often used on lawns. Such fertilizers can wash into local waterways when it rains, harming water quality and aquatic life.



Rainwater harvesting can help lower water use, and plants thrive on natural rainwater.



Some cities offer rebates for native landscaping, and some offer rebates for rainwater harvesting equipment. Texas does not assess a sales tax on the purchase of this equipment.

EARTH IS A WATER PLANET:

About 70% of the earth's surface is water, and the oceans hold about 97% of the earth's water. Of the remaining 3%, only about 1% is suitable for human use.

Humans place demands on our limited water resources, and so does nature. We need to allocate sufficient amounts of water to maintain environmental flows in our lakes, rivers, and estuaries to assure the ecosystems they support remain healthy.



CLEAN WATER FUND

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Clean Water Fund is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit research and educational organization. We work for a new ethic for stewardship of these precious natural resources, extending from watershed to watertap.



CENTRAL TEXAS WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT

Building a culture of water conservation

We all live downstream.

Clean Water Fund promotes protection and conservation of resources for drinking water, recreation and the integrity of our natural ecosystems.

Now and for the future.

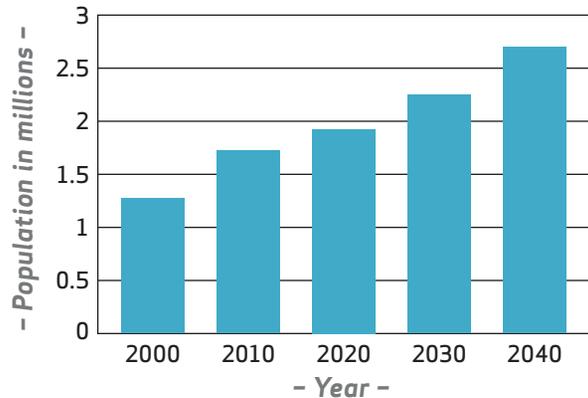
To secure clean, safe and affordable drinking water for future and present generations, we must protect and conserve land and water resources now.

WHY CONSERVE WATER:

Population growth, a changing climate and recurring drought are straining Central Texas' limited water resources.

Population of the five-county Austin region (Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis, and Williamson) grew by over 41% from 2000 to 2010, and continues to increase.

AUSTIN METRO POPULATION PROJECTIONS
SOURCE: TEXAS POPULATION CENTER



Most climate models project that Central Texas will receive less rainfall in the coming decades. The amount of water lost from area waterways to evaporation is projected to increase due to rising temperatures.

Drought is a frequent occurrence, and water levels in area lakes and aquifers reached near-record lows during 2008–09. After a year with normal rainfall, Central Texas has once again slipped back into drought.

CONSERVATION SAVES MONEY:

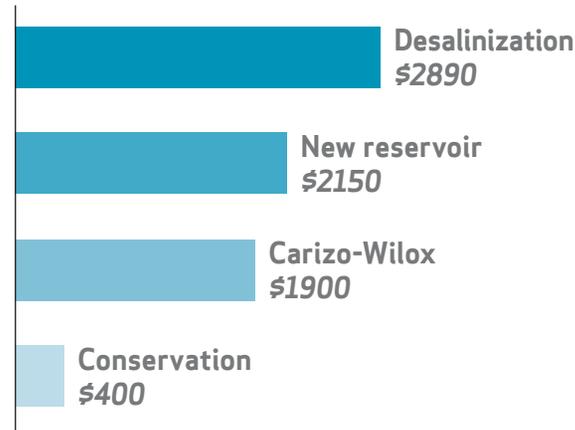
The challenges facing our water supply and the high cost of providing alternatives make it imperative that Central Texas communities invest in conservation.

Conservation is by far the most affordable way for communities to meet future water needs.

Using water more efficiently can delay or prevent the need for expensive new water infrastructure, saving water and customers money. Water saved is money earned!

COST OF WATER SUPPLY OPTIONS
(Dollars/acre-foot)

SOURCE: LCRA



CONSERVING WATER INDOORS:

The average American uses over 69 gallons each day on indoor water use alone. Replacing older fixtures with efficient “watersense” models can cut this use by over one-third and lower utility bills.

INEFFICIENT VS. EFFICIENT FIXTURES
Gallons Per Capita Day (GPCD)

SOURCE: AMERICAN WATER WORKS ASSOCIATES

FIXTURE:	INEFFICIENT	EFFICIENT
Toilets	18.5	8.2
Showers	11.6	8.8
Clothes Washers	15.0	10.0
Faucets	10.9	10.8
Leaks	9.5	4.0
Other	1.6	1.6
Baths	1.2	1.2
Dishwashers	1.0	0.7
Total GPCD:	69.3	45.3

Replacing an inefficient toilet with a low-flush model can save 11,000 gallons of water per year.

Some cities give away or offer rebates for low-flush toilets and other water-saving devices. Texas offers a sales-tax holiday on Memorial Day Weekend for efficient washing machines and other appliances.