

TOWN OF WOODSTOCK WATER CONSERVATION POLICY

Applicability:

The purpose of this policy is to protect and conserve water supplies available to the Town's customers in the event of water shortages, or emergency situations that threaten supplies or the ability to distribute water to customers.

Circumstances that affect water availability include, but are not limited to: (a) prolonged drought conditions which cause water tables to diminish; (b) exceptionally hot, dry periods which causes an increase in demand for water; and (c) a sudden interruption of the water distribution system or severance from a primary water source, such as damages to an underground water main.

In the event it appears that water demand by Woodstock water customers threatens the water supply of the Town of Woodstock, the Town Manager may recommend to the Town Council that voluntary water conservation measures be implemented. The Town Manager, following consultation with the Town Council, may declare a Stage I, Water Shortage Condition Advisory requesting voluntary water conservation by customers. In the event that voluntary measures fail to relieve the demand on the Woodstock water supply, the Town Manager may advance to a Stage II, or Stage III Water Shortage Condition.

In an effort to openly communicate with customers of the Town when conditions are leading to a water emergency, or in the event of a sudden water emergency, and to work together as a community in overcoming emergency situations, the following measures have been established:

STAGE I CONDITION
Voluntary Water Restriction Measures

The Town Manager is authorized to invoke voluntary restrictions on the use of water during any period in which moderate or limited supplies of water are available. The term “moderate or limited supplies” shall be defined to mean, that the river water level is at or below six (6) inches over the top of the raw water intake pipes, or there is a disruption in the distribution system. During such periods of moderate or limited supplies, the Town Manager shall request all persons whose water supply is furnished from a Town owned or Town operated water system to practice voluntary water conservation by:

1. Limiting lawn and garden watering to that which is necessary for plants to survive.
Water by reusing household water whenever possible
2. Limit car washing to the minimum
3. Do not wash down or flush streets, driveways, building exteriors, sidewalks, patios, parking or other outdoor surfaces
4. Ceasing the operation of any ornamental fountain or other similar fixtures (unless the Water is recycled)
5. Do not fill or add water to swimming or wading pools
6. Do not serve drinking water in restaurants, except upon by request of the customer
7. Do not leave faucets running while shaving, brushing teeth, or rinsing dishes
8. Limit use of clothes washers and dishwashers and when used operate fully loaded
9. Take a shower instead of a bath while limiting showers to 4 minutes or less
10. Limit flushing toilets by multiple usages
11. Use flow restrictive and water saving devices
12. All residences, businesses, and institutions are requested to temporarily delay new landscape work until the water shortage has ended
13. Limit the hours of operation of water-cooled air conditioners. Reuse water if possible
14. Large volume water users will be contacted directly by the Town and directed to implement water conservation measures

In declaring voluntary restrictions, the Town Manager shall, by written notice, advise each Council member of the declaration, and shall advise the news media. The notices herein prescribed should encourage all users to voluntarily continue other water conservation practices.

STAGE II CONDITION
Mandatory Water Restrictions

The Town Manager is authorized to invoke restrictions on the use of water during any period in which very limited supplies are available. The term “very limited supplies” of water shall be defined to mean that the river water level is at the top of the raw water intake pipes, or there is a major disruption in the distribution system.

During such period of very limited supplies of water, in addition to the voluntary guidelines already in effect, it shall be unlawful to use water supplied by the Town of Woodstock in the following manner:

1. To water lawns, grass, shrubbery, trees, flowers, and vegetable gardens
2. To fill swimming and or wading pools
3. To wash automobiles, trucks, trailers, boards, airplanes, or any other type of mobile equipment
4. To wash down outside areas such as streets, driveways, aprons, parking lots, office buildings, exteriors of residential homes or apartments, sidewalks, patios, and for any other similar purpose
5. Obtaining water from fire hydrants for any other purpose than fighting fires, or public emergency
6. To operate or induce water into any ornamental fountain, pool, or pond
7. To serve drinking water in restaurants, cafeterias, or any other food establishment except at the request of the customer
8. To operate water-cooled air conditioners or other equipment that does not recycle cooling water (except when health and safety of the public might be adversely affected)
9. To use water for any unnecessary purpose or to intentionally waste water
10. Large volume water users will be contacted directly by the Town and directed to implement water conservation measures

STAGE III CONDITION
Declared Water Supply Emergency

In the event a Stage III Condition exists and water usage continues to endanger the availability of water supply from the water source, the Town Council may declare a Water Supply Emergency. A Declared Water Supply Emergency shall be defined to mean that the river level is below six (6) inches of the top of the raw water intake pipes or a catastrophic event occurs in the distribution system. In addition to the recommendations and restrictions in Stage I and Stage II Water Shortage Conditions, the following restrictions shall also apply:

1. The induction of water into any swimming/wading pool shall be prohibited
2. The use of water outside of a structure for any purpose other than fighting a fire shall be prohibited
3. Fire protection is to be supplied, if possible, through the drafting of water from ponds, rivers, etc. whenever possible
4. The use of throw away utensils and plates at all eating establishments shall be encouraged
5. The Town will consider on a case by case basis the limiting or discontinuance of water

Lifting of Restrictions Imposed During A Water Shortage

Water shortage conditions will expire when the Mayor and Town Manager of Woodstock, after consultation with the Woodstock Town Council, deems that the conditions which previously created a water shortage have been abated.

The expiration or cancellation of a water shortage declaration shall be promptly and extensively publicized using all means available to the Town of Woodstock.

PENALTIES

Any person, firm, association, or corporation violating any mandatory water restriction during a declared Stage II condition or Stage III water supply emergency shall be guilty of a Class I misdemeanor punishable upon conviction by a fine not to exceed \$500.00 or imprisonment not exceeding 30 days. In addition, such violation may be enjoined and restrained, and may provide that violation subjects the offender to a civil penalty to be recovered by the Town in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty within a prescribed period of time after he/she has been cited for violation of the ordinance.

DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

1. The provision of water to any customer on the Woodstock Water System may be temporarily discontinued for willful disregard of this subchapter.

ADOPTED 2/7/06