

Some Possible Regulations/Mandates/Incentives with Potential to Promote Water Conservation¹

- The participation rate of many, if not most, water conservation measures/best management practices (BMPs) can be greatly increased via regulatory mandates.
- Most efficiency upgrade-related regulatory mandates affect future actions to ease the burden on the community (e.g., future construction & development).
- Mandates can, however, also direct users to implement retrofits and/or upgrades to existing structures (e.g., major renovations and upon resale of property).
- Some mandates can/should be accompanied by financial assistance (cost-share) to make efficiency upgrades affordable.
- Regulations can be applied at various levels. Nearly any conservation measure/BMP can be mandated via one of four possible approaches:
 - Statewide statute
 - Rule by water management district (could be a collective rule by all three CFWI districts across the entire planning area, if designated as a special cautionary zone)
 - Ordinance at the local level (city or county)
 - Made to be a condition of service by a public water supply utility
- Utilities and agricultural representatives participating in this stakeholder process have made it clear that some mandates may be more palatable when they are applied equally across broad planning areas (CFWI, WMDs, Statewide).
- The Conservation sub-Team can provide estimates of water savings for some of the mandatory measures listed below.

Examples of Measures/BMPs/Programs That Could Be Mandated/Implemented

- **Efficiency Standards**
 - Change building codes to mandate that EPA WaterSense®/Florida Water StarSM (FWS) silver or gold fixtures and appliances are required for all new construction.
 - Adopt part or all of the International Green Construction Code (International Code Council). [Boyton Beach has done this already.]
 - Mandate that existing homes and businesses must be upgraded to water efficient fixtures and appliances when they are sold or significantly remodeled; this would also apply to institutional establishments. These types of mandates may involve subsidies, especially to low-income individuals.
 - Require that all appliances bought and sold be Energy Star® certified.
 - Require that all plumbing fixtures bought and sold be WaterSense® certified.
 - Require that commercial and institutional establishments comply with high water efficiency standards and practices for new construction.
 - Require commercial and institutional entities to retrofit with water efficient equipment and practices when they replace old equipment.
 - Require all restaurant facilities to participate in the water management districts' Water Program for Restaurant Outreach (Water PRO).
 - Require all lodging facilities to participate in the water management districts' Water Conservation Hotel and Motel Program (Water CHAMPSM) or FDEP's Florida Green Lodging Program.

¹ This draft is not meant to be all inclusive, but is intended to start discussions of what could be done from a regulatory standpoint to conserve water. The Water Conservation sub-Team can provide more specific information on practices, programs and other resources related to the listed topics. Version 8/7/2014

- Require all new government buildings to meet sustainability ratings (FWS, FGBC, LEED) and older buildings to strive to upgrade to those standards during remodeling efforts and large equipment replacements.
 - Require all public water supply utilities to conduct full water accounting as per the American Water Works Association's M36 Methodology on a regular basis.
 - Require all public water supply utilities to create goal-based water conservation plans that are tied to a **measurable numeric goal** (gpcd or volume) as per the utility's preference (goal would reflect the utility's past history of conservation efforts and service area demographics, etc.).
 - Require all public water supply utilities to implement inverted block water conservation rate structures with clear and effective price signals.
 - Provide funding to recognize and reward users that substantially conserve water compared to their peers.
 - Require all public water supply utilities to raise rates for use over average, simple domestic (a.k.a., indoor) demand volume.
 - Require and finance urban and agricultural mobile irrigation laboratories and mandate, with appropriate financial assistance, implementation of improved management practices and more efficient irrigation systems.
 - Require all agricultural entities to follow water-related best management practices provided by the University of Florida/IFAS.
- **Reductions in Discretionary Water Use**
 - Require that all landscaping be designed and installed in accordance with Florida Friendly Landscaping (FFL) Principles.
 - Put limitations on high water use zones in residential and commercial irrigated landscapes, including golf courses.
 - Promote the use of appropriately selected (**right plant/right place**) native plants to reduce irrigation demands.
 - Require that all new irrigation systems be designed for water efficiency and include high efficiency emitters and control devices.
 - Prohibit the installation of personal irrigation wells if served by a utility.
 - Require metering of 4" wells.
 - Require dual water metering, i.e., potable and irrigation, for all new construction.
 - Enforce existing irrigation rules, including imposing fines for repeat offenders.
- **Removal of Impediments to Water Conservation**
 - Allow utilities to set water-use limits based on parcel size, landscape design rules and rainfall data; impose possible fines for excessive irrigation.
 - Modify the existing law that protects homeowners wishing to have FFL compliant landscapes to include additional protection from homeowner association covenants requiring large areas of turfgrass.
 - Remove any regulations impeding the installation of residential rainwater harvesting and storage (cisterns) systems. Create statewide standards governing the capture and onsite use of rain water. Although this is not a water conservation measure, it can serve to reduce groundwater withdrawals and stormwater volumes.
 - Allow gray water to be used for irrigation. This is similar to the measure directly above in that it is not a conservation measure; however, it provides the benefit of reducing use of higher quality water and is a reuse measure.