

TOWN OF STETTLER

<u>Prepared By:</u>	Director of Operations	Number:	XV-7
<u>Adopted By:</u>	Town of Stettler Council	Original Policy:	N/A
		Previous Policy:	N/A
		Current Policy:	2024 05 07

Title: **Water Conservation**

Purpose: To establish supporting regulatory framework for the Waterworks Bylaw, Section 1502, for all residents and businesses who are municipal water utility customers and provide detail on how the Town may restrict the manner in which customers can use municipal water for certain purposes such as watering lawns, gardens, yards or grounds.

Policy: **1. STATEMENT**

The Town is committed to providing a sustainable, safe supply of potable water to customers with fair and equitable water use restrictions when necessary. The Town will ensure water use restrictions prioritize human life and health while preserving the need for emergency fire protection.

2. APPLICATION

- a) This policy applies to the use of municipally supplied potable water and it includes all sectors of water use such as residential, industrial, commercial and institutional, including municipal operations.
- b) Conservation efforts of water use will apply when environmental conditions (i.e. drought) or operational constraints, cause a shortage in the water supply.
- c) Water restrictions due to environmental conditions will apply May 1st through to October 1st, operational constraints will be applied as required.

RESTRICTED ACTIVITIES:

- During times of water conservation, specific water use activities are defined to provide clarity on what activities are determined to be non-essential. Those activities are defined and described in Schedule A.

CONSERVATION TRIGGERS/PENALTIES:

- Movement between Water Conservation Steps are defined by Triggers that have defined metrics on how the Steps are put on and off.
 - o Environmental condition triggers are based on the Red Deer River flows as measured at Red Deer.
 - o Operation constraint triggers are based on the Water Treatment Plant production and evaluation of existing Town water storage reservoir levels.
- Step 1: Activated when the Red Deer River at Red Deer maintains a flow within the range of 16 to 18 m³/s for one consecutive week or if the Water Treatment Plant requires a shut down of longer than 12 hours or if reservoir levels cannot be maintained to meet fire flow requirements.
- Step 2: Activated when the Red Deer River at Red Deer flow drops below 16 m³/s for one consecutive week or if the Water Treatment Plant requires a shut down longer than 24 hours, or if reservoir levels cannot be maintained to meet fire flow requirements.
- Step 3: Activated at the discretion of Alberta Environment and Parks.

ENFORCEMENT/PENALTIES:

- Each Water Conservation Step has certain requirements for notification and/or penalties associated to non compliance for each step initiated.

Best Practice Conditions: no fines apply, unless in the Town's opinion, the use of water is wasteful as per Section 1504 of the Waterworks Bylaw.

Step 1 and 2 – If the customer is non-compliant, they receive a letter concerning their non-compliance. They are given 7 days to resolve the action. If they continue the action, a fine of \$250 is issued for the first offence. The fine for the second offence is \$1,000. The fine for the third offence is \$2,500. Subsequent fines are \$2,500 and may result in disconnection of water service.

Step 3 – Any violation results in an automatic shut off of water due to severity of drought at the direction of Alberta Environment and Parks.

MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS:

Public Works:

- Will reduce watermain flushing, except as necessary to maintain water quality standards. Will attempt to capture and re-use flushing water for other purposes at Steps 1-3.

Stettler Recreation Center:

- Aquatics – if Step 1 is implemented, the slide will be closed and remained closed through Steps 1-3.
- Arena – Starting in August when the ice plant is commissioned, will obtain to capture the cooling water for re-use.

Spray Park:

- Does not have the capabilities to re-use water and therefore, once Step 1 conservation has been implemented, this facility will be closed.

Trees and Flowers:

- Staff will attempt to use repurposed water when available for all Steps of conservation implemented.
- No additional plantings of any kind will be planted upon moving into Step 1.










Community Gardens:

- Staff will attempt to use repurposed water for the watering tanks located at all community gardens.

Fire Department:

- Will not use water for fire practice once Step 1 has been implemented.

Schedule A

		Best Practice Conditions	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3
Sprinklers		YES Best practices include avoid watering during 9am to 7pm	YES , 2 hr max., one day a week	YES , 1 hr max., one day a week	NO
			Watering schedule is based on house number: Even house number: Even days, Odd house number: Odd days. Watering is allowed between 7 pm and 9 am only.		
Hoses with spray nozzle: Only for gardens, trees, shrubs, flowers		YES Any day/time	YES max, 1 hr day	YES max, 1 hr day	NO
Hand watering		YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO
Watering new sod, up to three weeks from planting		YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES , max 2 hour/twice a day	NO
Car washing		Car washing is recommended at a commercial car wash	NO , at commercial car wash only	NO , at commercial car wash only	NO , at commercial car wash only, or as restricted by Alberta Environment
Outdoor washing: windows, exterior building surfaces, sidewalk, driveways or walkways		YES Any day/time	Hand washing of windows for residential only allowed. Commercial properties may clean outdoor surfaces to meet public health standards.	Hand washing of windows for residential only allowed. Commercial properties may clean outdoor surfaces to meet public health standards.	NO
Filling of pools, hot tubs		YES Any day/time	NO filling, draining or refilling permitted. Topping up permitted	NO	NO
Filling of fountains and other decorative features		YES Any day/time	NO	NO	NO
Water use for construction projects including grading, compaction and dust control required to meet contract standards		YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	YES Any day/time	NO
Municipal Operations	Best practice methods to reduce water will be implemented as defined in the policy.				