

Town of Ramseur
Water Shortage Response Plan

Water covers 3/4 of the world, but only 3% is fresh water and of this, 4/5 is stored in icecaps and glaciers. We as water users need to protect it and use it wisely. Water makes up 2/3 of our bodies and without water life would not exist.

Voluntary Water Conservation Tips

Indoor Residential Use

- Don't run water while brushing your teeth.
- Wash only full loads of laundry.
- Run dishwasher only when full.
- Almost 40% of water used goes down the toilet; install low flush toilets or install toilet tank displacements.
- Do not use the toilet as a trash can.
- Install flow restricting shower heads or other water saving devices.
- Insulate hot water pipes.
- Repair all leaks in toilets and sinks by replacing washers and internal parts of the toilet.
- Learn to take shorter showers and baths.
- Do not run tap water for a cold glass of water; keep drinking water in refrigerator.
- Learn to read your water meter so you can judge your usage.

Outdoor Residential Use

- Water your lawn only when it needs it. A good way to tell if your grass needs watering is to step on the grass and if it springs back up when you move your foot, it doesn't need watering.
- Water during cool parts of the day.
- Plant drought-resistant trees and plants.
- Place mulch around trees and plants.
- Don't run your hose when washing your vehicle.
- Water slowly to prevent runoff. Don't set sprinkler so that it runs off onto paved areas.
- Avoid watering yards on windy days to prevent evaporation.
- Do not allow children to play wastefully with sprinklers or garden hose.
- Do not run sprinkler systems on a rainy day.
- Check outside faucets and hoses for leaks.
- Use a broom or leaf blower to clean off sidewalks and driveways, not the garden hose.
- Learn to read your water meter; check it often.
- Adjust your lawn mower heights to a higher setting. The higher grass helps to shade one another, helping to fight off heat and moisture loss.
- If you have an outdoor pool, get a cover for it to prevent evaporation.

Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Use

- Do not run automatic sprinkler systems when not necessary.
- Install low flush toilets and flow restriction on toilets.
- Do not flush cigarettes or tissues down the toilet.
- Assure that the automatic valves are working properly.
- Check your property frequently to see signs of water leakage.
- Check all outside faucets, hoses, and valves for leakage.
- Repair all leaks on water- using equipment, such as water cooling towers, steam using machines, water heaters, and processing machines.
- Learn to read your water meter to determine excessive water usage.
- Educate your employees, students, patients, etc. on water conservation.
- Adjust and implement all water saving devices.

Water Shortage Response Plan Ordinance

Section I: Authority to Implement

When conditions dictate, the Town of Ramseur's Public Works Director, under the director of the Town's Mayor and Board of Commissioners, may implement a water shortage response plan. Conditions, which may require the plan to be enacted, are outlined in Section II.

Section II: Factors Leading to the Implementation of The Water Shortage Response Plan

Several factors may require the town to begin the Response Plan: such as contaminates in the water system, water main breaks, high service pumps failure, and low reservoir levels.

Phase I – enacted when any of the above are deemed serious and the lake level is down 1 feet.

Phase II – enacted when any of the above are deemed serious and the lake level is down 2 feet.

Phase III – enacted when any of the above are deemed serious and the lake level is down 3 feet.

Section III: Water Use Classifications

In order to create a fair and equitable Response Plan, every water consumer will be grouped into one of three classifications.

Class 1 – Essential Water Users

These uses are necessary to sustain human and animal life and to maintain minimum standards for hygiene and sanitation.

- Health Care Facilities
- Fire Fighting
- Any other use approved by the Mayor and Board of commissioners

Class 2 – Socially or Economically Important Uses of Water

All domestic uses other than those included in Classes 1 and 2.

- Home water use including kitchen, bathroom, and laundry
- Minimum watering of vegetable gardens
- Watering of trees to sustain their life
- Outdoor commercial watering using conservation measures
- Commercial Laundromats
- Commercial car & truck washes
- Restaurants
- Schools and churches
- Air conditioning for industrial buildings

Class 3 – Non-Essential Uses of Water

- Outdoor non-commercial watering (public or private)
- Non-commercial washing of motor vehicles
- Watering of playing fields
- Serving water in restaurants except by request

Section IV:

Phase I – Declaration of Voluntary Conservation

This phase is enacted whenever the governing body of the Town of Ramseur determines that one or more of the parameters outlined in Section 2 is met.

All customers shall be notified by door hangers, public posting at the Town Hall, newspaper, or radio etc. The public will be asked to begin voluntary conservation measures and Class III non-essential uses will be halted.

Continued water consumption by Class III non-essential users will result in a written notice of violation and a \$50 fine for each subsequent offense.

If the determining parameters return to normal, the measures will be lifted.

Phase II – Mandatory

This phase will begin when the Town Administrator, as advised by the Public Works Director, issues a Water Shortage Advisory. All customers will be notified again as in Phase I and will be required to adhere to the Voluntary Conservation Measures. Class II will be banned. Class II users will be allowed to water outdoor vegetation according to the residents' street address. Even number addresses are allowed to water on even days of the month. Odd number addresses on odd days of the month. During Phase II, industrial facilities and water purchasers will need to develop a plan to demonstrate reduction of water use by 20%. Failure to adhere to required conditions will result in a written notice of violation for the first offense and a \$50 fine. Thereafter the Town may impose a fine of \$100 per violation for the second offense and \$200 for the third offense. The fourth offense will result in a \$250 fine and/or water service disconnected.

If Phase II fails to alleviate the water shortage, The Town will have to enter the Final Phase.

Phase III – Emergency

This phase will commence when the Town Administrator, under advice from the Public Works Director, Mayor and Town Board of Commissioners, deems it so necessary. All water users will be notified again as in Phase I. Class III uses will be banned. Class II uses will be allowed although reduced. Industrial users will be required to implement water reduction immediately. Residential users will be allotted based upon size of the

family or 40 gallons per day per person. Any usage over this amount will have a surcharge of 150% to the monthly water bill. Industrial, commercial, institutional, and purchase systems will be required to reduce their water consumption by 25% of their previous 12 month average. Any amount used above this average will result in a surcharge of 150% of the monthly water bill.

Failure to comply with these mandates during Phase III will require the offending party to pay \$100 for the first offense, \$300 for the second offense, and disruption of water service for the third offense.

Section V: Enforcement

Any enforcement of mandatory conservation and associated fines will be responsibility of the Town Administrator under direction of the Mayor and the Town Board.

Section VI: Water Shortage Response Plan De-Implementation

As the reservoirs levels return or parameters decrease in severity, the Town will lift the Water Shortage Response Plan.

Section VII: Effective Date

This ordinance shall be in full force and effect on the 1st day of October, 2007.

Approved this 1st day of October, 2007.

Mayor, Town of Ramseur

ATTEST: _____ (Seal) Town Clerk