



2022 WMP FAQs So Far



1. What role is conservation playing to help implement SA long term water management plan?

Conservation of water brings two benefits in water management. One is to reduce the need for new water supply projects by reducing the amount of water used per person. The second is that targeted conservation programs reduce the peak increase in water consumption that can occur during hot, dry periods. Had our community not reduced per capita consumption and managed hot summer peak usage, we would have had to acquire much more new water. When conservation can be achieved at a lower cost than new water supplies, it a good business proposition.

SAWS has been a national leader in using conservation as a critical component of water management plans. As a community we have set and met per capita goals in every water plan for San Antonio. The most recent SAWS [Water Conservation Plan](#), can be found on [saws.org](#). This plan will be refreshed as part of the current Water Management Plan update. The new plan will look at water use patterns, strategies available, costs and suggest long-term reduction targets that can be achieved in the near and long-term. This will result in a water demand forecast used to ask “how much water do we need in the future?”

2. Less than 10% of fresh water is consumed by residences. Yet 90% of all conservation efforts are directed at residential consumers. Please direct your conservation efforts at the biggest consumers of water.

Water is used in complex ways around the globe. For our water plan, we analyze how it is used in San Antonio. Single family homes make up 92% of SAWS accounts and use about 57% of the volume of water delivered in a year. Multifamily residential customers use about 14% of the volume of water delivered in a year. Commercial, industrial, and institutional users use the remaining 29% of water through indoor/domestic usage and outdoor/irrigation usage.

We consider all customers and their opportunities to save when designing and implementing conservation programs. Many single-family customers appreciate our incentives and education programs that help them keep their water bill lower. Commercial customers also care about their water bills and contribute a lot to the annual savings portfolio. Our new water plan will look at opportunities for each group of customer and how investments in efficiency can contribute to an efficient water future.

3. How is GPCD calculated? Does GPCD Include water loss and recycled water?

Total Gallons Per Capita Day as outlined by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) are calculated as the Total System Input Volume (SIV) divided by the retail population served, divided by 365. The retail population is the permanent population served by the water system. SIV is also known at SAWS as the potable water to distribution network since SAWS operates a complex system. Officially calculated on the State Water Loss Reports due 5/1 for the preceding audit data year. $\text{Line 16 \{Total System Input Volume\} / Line 5a \{Retail Population Served\} / 365}$. Total GPCD calculated this way does include all Nonrevenue Water (NRW) and subsequently water losses as part of the GPCD. It does not include recycled water as the focus is the potable water distribution network, though use of SAWS Recycled Water Program off-sets potable water demands cost effectively and contributes to lower GPCD usage of potable water.