

Perquimans County Adopts Seasonal Water Conservation Rates

What are Seasonal Water Conservation Rates?

Seasonal water conservation rates are a pricing method to be used by the Perquimans County water system to encourage conservation of our valuable drinking water supplies during peak seasonal water demands.

Why is the County implementing these rates?

During these months, demand for drinking water peaks, causing increased operational costs. The new seasonal water conservation rate structure will encourage conservation of a limited resource.

How will this work?

In the six months between May 1st and October 31st, a seasonal water conservation rate will apply to water use in excess of 8,000 gallons per month. The first 8,000 gallons of monthly water use will be billed at the normal rate of \$10 minimum for up to 1000 gallons of use and \$6 per 1000 gallons of use up to 8,000 gallons. For any water usage over 8,000 gallons per month, you will be billed at the seasonal water conservation rate of \$8 per 1000 gallons. Therefore, if you use less than 8,000 gallons in a month, you will be billed at the normal rate and see no difference in your monthly water bill.

Will my water bill increase?

Only if you use more than 8,000 gallons of water per month. The average customer uses about 4,000 gallons per month and will see no difference in their monthly bill. Based on 2007 usage records, ***less than 10% of the customers will be impacted by the new seasonal water conservation rates.***

The seasonal water conservation rate will apply to all water customers except for agricultural customers and master-metered customers (re-sellers of water). To qualify as an agricultural customer you must meet the definition of “bona fide farm” as defined in the Perquimans County Zoning Ordinance. All other customers, including residential, commercial, and institutional, will be subject to the seasonal water conservation rate.

Here's a comparison of seasonal water conservation rates and non-seasonal water rates for various monthly water usages:

Monthly Usage (Gallons)	Monthly Water Bill	
	Non-Seasonal (Nov - Apr)	Seasonal (May - Oct)
0	\$10.00	\$10.00
1,000	\$10.00	\$10.00
2,000	\$16.00	\$16.00
3,000	\$22.00	\$22.00
(Average Customer) 4,000	\$28.00	\$28.00
8,000	\$52.00	\$52.00
10,000	\$64.00	\$68.00
25,000	\$154.00	\$188.00
50,000	\$304.00	\$388.00
100,000	\$604.00	\$788.00

What are the most effective ways for me to conserve water?

1. Find and fix leaks in plumbing fixtures and other water-using appliances.
2. Replace toilets, faucets and showerheads installed before 1994 with new water-efficient models.
3. Smart watering techniques for landscaping and vegetable gardens (see websites below).

Please visit these websites for home and lawn water conservation ideas and money saving tips:

North Carolina Water Conservation: www.p2pays.org/water

North Carolina Cooperative Extension: www.ces.ncsu.edu/Publications/lawngarden.php

How will Perquimans County calculate the water bills for May and October?

The seasonal water conservation rates take effect with the May bills, which will include water consumed beginning at various times in April, depending on your billing cycle. Likewise, the seasonal water conservation rates will conclude with the October billing cycle, which will end at various times that month.

What if I have a leak, will I be billed at the higher seasonal rate?

No. If the customer can submit proof of a leak with a repair bill from a plumber or sign a statement to the effect that there was a leak that has been repaired, water will be billed at the normal rate and qualify for an adjustment under the existing leak policy.

Is the County doing this for more money?

No. Our goal is to encourage water customers to conserve more water and therefore lower their County water bill.