

Colorado Springs

A water-conscious community



Colorado Springs has a long history of water conservation. In the 1940s, the City was fully metered, long before metering became a standard practice in the industry. In the 1960s, the City pioneered the use of treated wastewater for irrigation. In the 1990s, the City opened the award-winning Xeriscape™ Demonstration Garden at 2855 Mesa Road.

Today, our lasting commitment to water conservation is still evident.

Education and outreach

Customer education is the foundation for Colorado Springs Utilities' water conservation programs. We communicate conservation messages using our customer newsletter, our Web site and local media. Free classes, tours and speakers are offered to students, homeowners, and civic and business groups. Our school program features curriculum that is developed in partnership with local educators.



Water conservation mascot, Ollie the Otter, and Colorado Springs Utilities staff teach local students about the value of water.

At the Conservation and Environmental Center, located at 2855 Mesa Road, we have a library of informative books, literature and videos. The Center is home to our first Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, which is maintained by 20 to 30 volunteers. We recently partnered with the City of Colorado Springs to develop another Xeriscape Demonstration Garden at Cottonwood Creek Park, 3920 Dublin Blvd., on the northeast side of the city.



Our award-winning Xeriscape™ Demonstration Garden is located at 2855 Mesa Road. Thousands of residents visit the garden each year.

Pricing

Our water prices encourage residential and commercial customers to use water efficiently. Residential customers pay an affordable price for essential indoor use, a moderate price for typical outdoor use and a higher price for excess use. Commercial prices encourage conservation during the summer months, when the greatest demands are placed on our water system.

Residential prices

More than 2,500 CF	4.2 cents per CF
1000 to 2,499 CF	2.8 cents per CF
Up to 999 CF	1.6 cents per CF

Commercial prices

May 1 – Oct. 31	2.6 cents per CF
Nov. 1 – April 30	1.4 cents per CF

1 cubic foot (CF) = 7.48 gallons

Prices shown are as of May 1, 2006.

Visit www.csu.org for the most current water prices.

Partners in conservation

Rebates and incentives

We offer financial incentives to encourage customers to upgrade appliances and equipment to more water-efficient models. Rebates are available for high-efficiency toilets, clothes washers and water-saving irrigation equipment, including rain shut-off devices and controllers. Different rebates are offered each year depending on available funds.

Regulations

In accordance with the Energy Policy Act of 1992, all new homes must have 1.6 gallon-per-flush toilets, 2.2 gallon-per-minute faucets and 2.5 gallon-per-minute showerheads.

Locally, we partner with the City of Colorado Springs to administer the 1998 Landscape Code and Policy, which requires water-efficient landscaping for all new commercial, industrial and multi-family properties.

Assistance programs

The Home Efficiency Assistance Program (HEAP), a partnership between Springs Utilities and the Energy Resource Center, provides free assistance to low-income customers for installing water-saving fixtures, such as toilets and showerheads. Customers can contact the Energy Resource Center at 719-591-0772 to find out if they are eligible for this or other programs.

For customers with high-bill concerns, our staff offers free home inspections to identify leaky faucets and toilets. We also distribute water-saving devices to residential and commercial customers.

Local partnerships

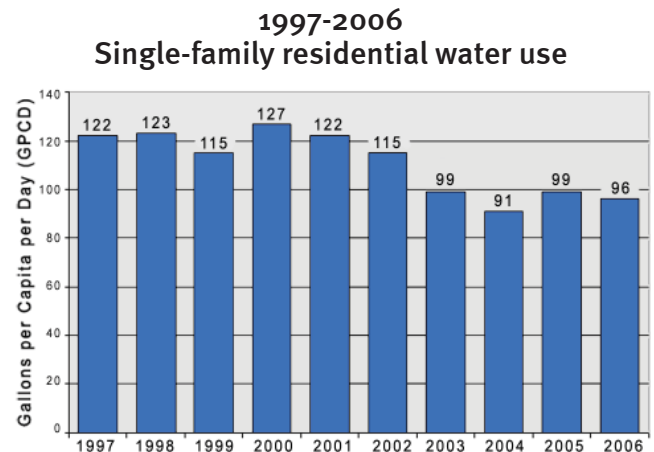
We recognize the value of regional partnerships and regularly collaborate with groups throughout the region and state, such as the Colorado WaterWise Council and the Colorado Water Conservation Board, to spread the water conservation message.

Each February, we sponsor the Peak to Prairie Landscape Symposium working with local garden

clubs, green industry associations and other public agencies. The symposium helps inform and motivate residents of southern Colorado to create appealing and enduring landscapes for our unique soils, climate and limited water supply.

Program results

Mandatory water restrictions were in place from 2002 through 2005. Before restrictions began, single-family residential use was 122 gallons per capita per day. After restrictions ended, single-family residential use was 96 gallons per capita per day. In addition to restrictions, a combination of factors have influenced the reduction, including regional drought awareness, favorable weather conditions and water conservation programs.



Today, the citizens of Colorado Springs continue to demonstrate a strong commitment to conservation. They respect the value and understand the scarcity of water in our region.

We recognize the vital role that conservation plays in the future of our community, particularly as the demand for water increases throughout the region. We continue to promote conservation to help our customers save and ensure the most effective and efficient use of water in our community, today and for future generations.

LEARN MORE: Call 448-4800
or visit us online at www.csu.org