

Why the Water Use Plan Matters to Our Region

One of the most important tools to ensure reliable, safe drinking water for more than 600,000 residents is CIWW's Water Use Plan.

The Water Use Plan is designed to:

- Keep your water supply safe and reliable
- Manage peak demand
- Provide a clear step-by-step approach
- Reduce Demand

This plan isn't just for emergencies, it's a proactive strategy that helps us manage water wisely, protect public health, and keep our drinking water system running smoothly.

Keeping Your Water Safe and Reliable

The Water Use Plan is designed to ensure that your drinking water remains safe and available, even during times of high demand or water quality challenges.

Whether it's a water source issue, extreme summer demand, or unexpected operational challenges, the Plan helps CIWW respond in a way that mitigates:

- Low water pressure
- Water quality concerns
- Service interruptions

Our goal is simple: deliver safe, reliable water every day, no matter the conditions.

Managing Peak Demand

Water use in central Iowa can fluctuate, especially during the summer when lawn watering can account for up to 40% of daily demand.

The Water Use Plan helps manage these spikes by:

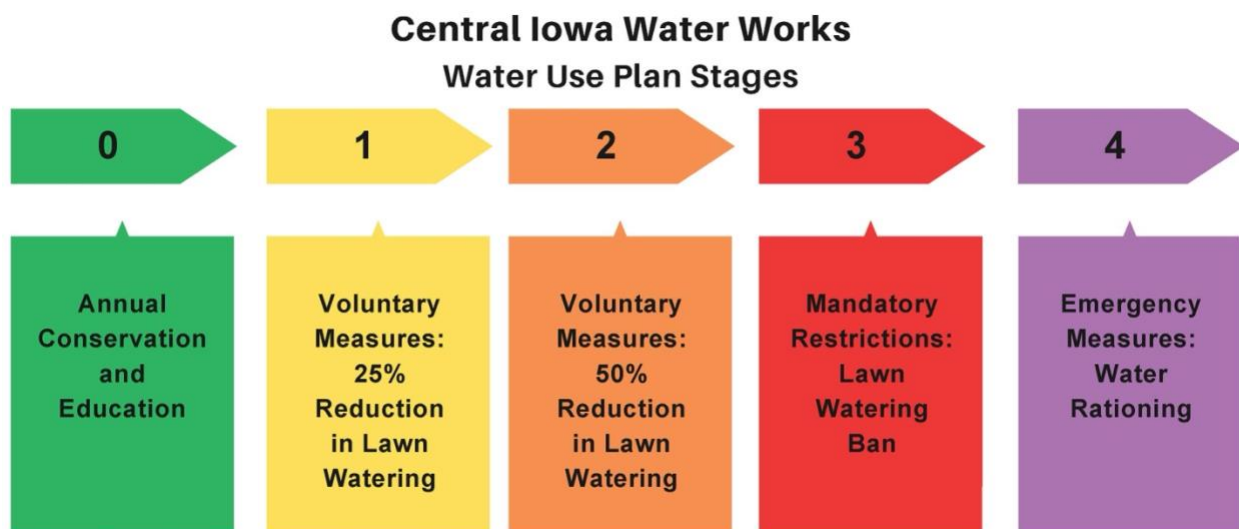
- Monitoring system capacity daily
- Implementing conservation measures when demand approaches system limits
- Reducing demand to sustainable levels when needed

By taking action early, we can prevent strain on the system and maintain consistent service for everyone.

A Clear, Step-by-Step Approach

The Plan uses a color-coded stage system to communicate with the public and guide action:

- Stage 0 (Green): Annual conservation and education
- Stage I (Yellow): Voluntary reduction in lawn watering
- Stage II (Orange): Increased voluntary conservation
- Stage III (Red): Mandatory restrictions
- Stage IV (Magenta): Emergency measures



Each stage builds on the last, allowing CIWW to respond appropriately based on real-time conditions. Stages may be adjusted or skipped depending on the situation .

Focused Where It Matters Most: Reducing Demand

The Plan prioritizes the most effective ways to reduce demand, especially outdoor water use.

Because lawn watering is the largest contributor to peak demand, even small reductions can have a big impact:

- A 25% reduction in lawn watering can reduce total demand by about 10%
- A 50% reduction can reduce total demand by about 20%

This targeted approach helps us achieve meaningful results without unnecessary disruption.

By working together, we can ensure a reliable and sustainable water supply for future generations.

The Water Use Plan is how CIWW turns planning into action. It allows us to respond proactively, protect public health, and keep water flowing across our region, even under pressure.

Stronger Together.