



CONSERVATION

A Newsletter Published by the New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance

Water Authority Sets its Goals

On August 17th the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority will consider an impressive package of water conservation programs. The Authority asked its Water Resources Advisory Group to recommend a conservation goal for the next 10 years together with the means to meet that goal. The recommendation is to 1) maintain the savings made thus far and 2) reduce an additional 10%. The Authority, which covers about 500,000 people, has been very active in support of water conservation.

The biggest savings is expected from the first recommendation: an aggressive policy to reduce unaccounted-for-water from 11% to 7% over the next four years. This would save 4% of current consumption and is recommended for funding at a level of at least \$22 million annually.

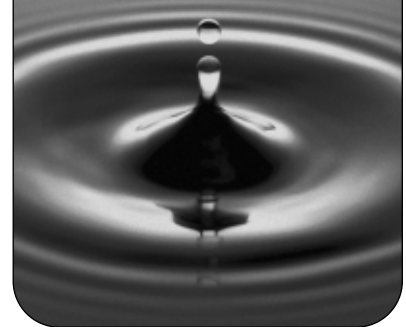
The next biggest expected savings is from additional changes in the rate structure to encourage conservation and penalize water waste, expected to reduce water use an additional 1-2%.

Another 1% savings is expected from Audit Programs that target nursing homes, hospitals, fitness centers, apartments, high schools, hotels, motels and restaurants. These are all high water users for whom audits have been effective elsewhere.

The other programs, each offering .25-5% savings, include:

- An irrigation efficiency rebate, with incentives based on potential water savings.
- A results-based rebate for non-residential customers.
- Additional water waste enforcement staff during the irrigation season.
- Require and provide training in efficient irrigation for irrigation system installers.
- Require that plumbing fixtures be upgraded before residential or commercial properties are resold.
- Require cooling towers to use multiple cycles of water.

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- Require individual meters on multi-family residential units.
- Require water harvesting for all commercial and residential developments over a threshold size.
- Expand partnerships with educators, neighborhood representatives, master gardeners and others.

The recommendation also suggests that the goal and the programs be reviewed in five years to see if sufficient progress is being made.

For more information, contact Katherine Yuhas, Water Conservation Officer, Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Department, phone: (505) 768-3633 email: kyuh@cabq.gov

Water Suppliers Express Interest in Conservation Planning Workshops

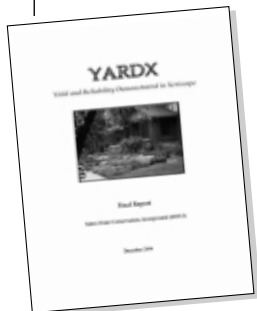
After December 31, 2005, any public water supplier who provides over 500 acre-feet a year and wants infrastructure funding from the N.M. Finance Authority or the N.M. Water Trust Board, will first have to develop and implement a Water Conservation and Drought Management Plan. This requirement came from the

2003 Legislature, and it adds to the growing interest in water conservation planning among water suppliers.

In response to that interest, the Alliance in collaboration with the Office of the State Engineer, and the Water Task Force of NMSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics (continued on page 2)

Study Available

The Yield And Reliability Demonstrated in Xeriscape (YARDX) study of potential water savings and costs of water conserving landscapes was released in December 2004, based on research conducted from 1997 to 2002 in actual homeowners' yards. With a few exceptions, water savings in the YARDX sites ranged from 18 to over 50 percent, with installation costs from \$0.90 to \$1.45/square foot and annual maintenance costs from \$.34 to \$1.33/square foot.



The full report can be downloaded from the Colorado WaterWise Council Website at: <http://www.coloradowaterwise.org/yardx.htm>

(continued from page 1)

is exploring water conservation planning training opportunities. A survey in April 2005 received 56 responses from water suppliers: 91% were interested in attending a workshop, and 63% have a water conservation plan in progress. Over three quarters said that reducing per capita water use and overall water withdrawals were among their primary goals, while around half said meeting funding requirements was a high priority.

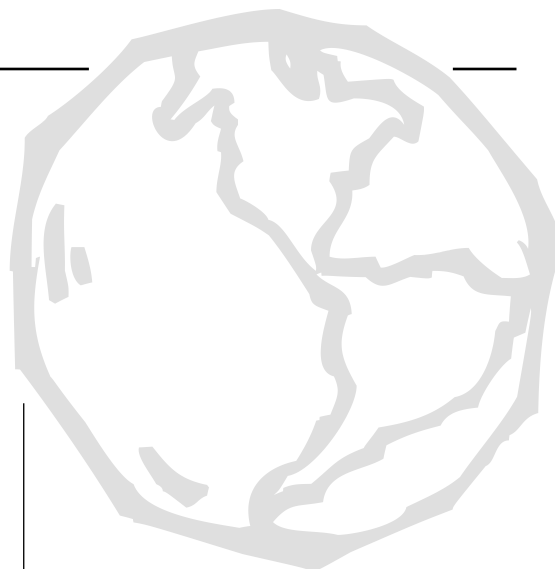
Asked which water conservation measures they want to learn about, the water suppliers ranked leak detection and repair first, followed by water conservation education, drought planning, and water use accounting. Every water conservation measure listed got votes from at least a third of the respondents.

NMSU's new "County College" has expressed its interest in hosting the workshops. County College's goal is to build strong local leaders through a certified public official program, making it a natural to conduct training for public water providers.

For more information, contact Leeann DeMouche, Cooperative Extension Service, phone (505) 646-3973 e-mail ldemouch@nmsu.edu

Conservation around the World Wide Web

- Water conservation concepts for children in India (English) <http://edugreen.teri.res.in/explore/water/conser.html>
- A Review of Water Conservation in Portugal (English) http://www.unesco.org.uy/phi/libros/efficient_water/wbau.html
- Documents and program information on municipal water-use efficiency (English and Spanish) <http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/>
- Water conservation programs in Canada—includes the Every Drop Counts! slide show. http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/manager/effic_e_weff.htm
- Great Britain—includes Demand Management, that WaterWiser calls the best water-efficiency publication in the world. www.environment-agency.gov.uk/savewater
- WaDImena site: Water conservation policy for Middle East and North Africa (MENA) <http://web.idrc.ca/waterdemand>
- Australia's leading source on water conservation <http://www.savewater.com.au/default.asp>



- Conserving water in France (French) <http://www.reseauenvironnement.com/RENV/ui/user/home/home.jsp>
- The World Conservation Union includes 82 nations, 111 government agencies, more than 800 NGOs, and some 10,000 scientists and experts from 181 countries in a worldwide partnership to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature. Its headquarters are in Gland, Switzerland. <http://www.iucn.org/>
- Tales of Water, a project of the World Conservation Union to tell the story of water from the perspective of children from around the world. <http://www.talesofwater.com/page.php?id=1>
- Education materials and videos on water conservation for Palestinian, Israeli and Jordanian children from the Multilateral Working Group on Water Resources, Middle East Peace Process. <http://www.watercare.org/>

AWWA Journal Water Conservation Issue

Article submissions are presently being accepted for the AWWA Journal's February 2006 conservation issue. Full length feature articles need to be peer reviewed, and must be submitted to AWWA by Sept. 1st. However, informational pieces for the Journal's Current Issues, Field Report, or Manager to Manager departments do not require peer review, and may be submitted up to November 17, 2005. AWWA also publishes a few short non-peer-reviewed

articles as leaders for the Journal's full length features.

Current Issues submissions should be from 600-1200 words; Field Reports, from 1000-1500 words; and Manager-to-Manager articles from 800-1500 words. Color photos are welcome.

Articles may be submitted by e-mail to Marcia Lacey, Editor, Journal AWWA, mlacey@awwa.org For more information see the website: <http://www.awwa.org/> Click communications, then e-journal.

Alice! Where Art Thou Going?

Alice Darilek is a world-class listener in the way that William Jennings Bryan was a world-class orator. Her natural gift for listening was developed to high art during the many years that Alice quietly laid the groundwork for New Mexico's water conservation program.

Listening is underrated as a necessary element of deep social change. None of us wants to change, and until we are certain that the reasons we don't want to change are fully appreciated, most of us just will not do it. In a water policy community full of championship talkers, Alice Darilek has listened intelligently and responded, and her listening and her responses have borne significant fruit.

Alice was the founder and has been the heartbeat of the New Mexico Water Conservation Alliance. She was the first head of the State Engineer's Water Conservation Office, taking on that role at a time when "water conservation" meant "making sure no water to which New Mexico is entitled goes to Texas." She will retire in September, and the Alliance's July meeting was, in part, a celebration of

Alice and her contributions to water conservation in New Mexico, where today "water conservation" has many new meanings.

At the July Alliance meeting Alice shared some of her memories and experiences, emphasizing the changes she's seen, beginning with the deep personal change of coming from green wet Oregon in the late 1970's to the arid Southwest. At the State Engineer Office she took on public information assignments, writing the pamphlets on New Mexico adjudications and on domestic wells which are still informative decades later, and editing the quarterly *WaterLine*. She prepared a public information brochure on water conservation, which eventually developed into the Water Conservation Office, the toll-free assistance line, and, haltingly but surely, into a program of technical and financial assistance for conservation efforts in the state.



Alice observed that the conservation movement's core approach has shifted as conservation evolved from short-term drought response to a long-term strategy for stretching a limited water supply to serve a growing community. Beginning as public education aimed at affecting people's behavior, water conservation policy came to draw on engineering and economics with its growing focus on product-improvement, which institutionalizes water savings.

The shift from a focus on habits to one on technology has been part of conservation policy's growing up. But, Alice noted, "We need to remember that conservation is still a question of attitudes—it still depends on individual actions."

Another feature of the conservation sector's increasing maturity is its evolution from an early emphasis on water conservation plans, to today's focus on making sure conservation plans are implemented and on evaluating on-the-ground conservation projects to see what works best.

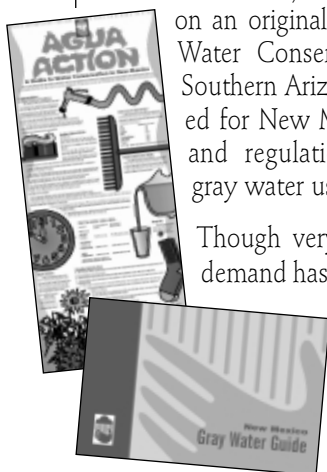
"The central focus of water conservation," Alice said, "has been water quantity. But conservation has become tied to environmental issues, to sustainability." This broadened constituent base has the healthy effect of keeping our eyes on the broad picture of water use. "Everything's connected to everything." Alice said. "If we're implementing lots of reuse, that affects the total picture. We have to be careful to keep the big picture in mind."

The Alliance gave Alice a gift certificate good for a rainbarrel of her choice, and a Nambe dish engraved with the Alliance's thanks. We all look forward to seeing where Alice carries her formidable talents.

Best Sellers

The latest in the Office of the State Engineer (OSE) Water Conservation Program's popular informative publications expands the information found in the OSE's smaller gray water brochure. Produced through the joint effort of many agencies and individuals, the *New Mexico Gray Water Guide* is based on an original publication by the Water Conservation Alliance of Southern Arizona and was adapted for New Mexico's laws, rules and regulations on residential gray water use.

Though very recently released, demand has been strong, and as the *Current* is being published, the first printing is almost "sold out"!



A pdf file is available on the OSE website; and more hard copies will be available from either the OSE or the New Mexico Environment Department.

The first of the OSE's Water Conservation brochures, a bright fold-out titled *Agua Action*, was published ten years ago. Still popular, *Agua Action* has been updated to reflect changes in conservation technology and information. Copies will be available in August.

The price is right for these handsome resources and many others in the OSE's publication list. They can be ordered free of charge by calling 1-800-WATERNM or e-mailing waternm@seo.state.nm.us. You may download a pdf at <http://www.ose.state.nm.us/water-info/conservation/h2o-outreach.html>

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CALENDAR

New Mexico has become
the site-of-choice for
Water Conservation events.

September 9, 2005 NMWCA meeting NMSU campus, Las Cruces, NM

11 am to 2 pm. Field trips for those that want to come early or stay late.

*Details, contact Cheri Vogel at
cheri.vogel@state.nm.us*

September 11-14, 2005 RMSAWWA/WEA Joint Annual Conference Albuquerque, NM

The Rocky Mountain Section of the American Water Works Association and Water Environment Association Joint Annual Conference will have a session on Water Supply and one on Conservation/Reuse, both on Tuesday, September 13.

*<http://www.rmwea.org> or contact Jill Peterson,
Conference Chair at (505) 855-5246 or
Jill.Peterson@ch2m.com*

October 6, 2005 3rd Annual Drought Summit Albuquerque, NM

UNM Continuing Education Building,
1634 University Blvd. SE

*Admission is free, but pre-register by sending
your name, affiliation, phone, address, email
address to cindy.nycz@nm.usda.gov.*

*For updated information:
<http://www.ose.state.nm.us/>*

October 18-20, 2005 NM WRI Water Conference NMSU, Las Cruces, NM

NM Water Resources Research Institute:
*New Mexico Water: Past, Present, and Future
or Guns, Lawyers, and Money*

wri.nmsu.edu

October 25-29, 2005 34th NAAEE Conference Albuquerque, NM

North American Association of
Environmental Education:
Sustainability and EE: Focus on the Future

<http://www.naaee.org>

February 5-8, 2006 Water Sources Conference Albuquerque, NM

The AWWA's premier biannual event for
water conservation professionals

<http://www.awwa.org/conferences/sources/call/>

March 9-11, 2006 XeriscapeNM Conference Albuquerque, NM

*Restoring Our Waters —
Think Globally, Act Locally!*

<http://www.xeriscapenm.com/>