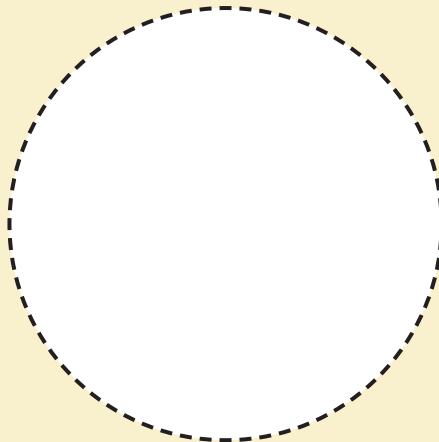
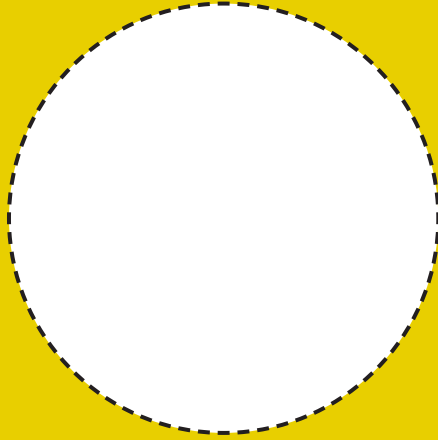


Top 10 Ways

**Utilities Can Save Water,
Energy and Money While
Preparing for
Climate Change**





Top 10 Ways
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THE MOST IMPORTANT STEP IS TO UPDATE YOUR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

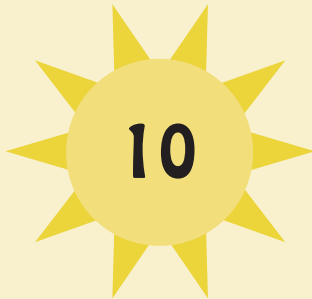
Climate change impacts will impose a challenge to the water sector. Extreme weather events, sea level rise, shifting precipitation and runoff patterns, and temperature changes all have significant implications for sustainability of water utilities. Saving water and energy can help utilities prepare for climate change, and reduce costs at the same time.

Refer to these tips and make notes to update your Emergency Response Plan.



**TOP
10**

Reduce energy use



Conduct a baseline energy audit.

**Develop a plan, prioritize
recommendations and make changes.**

Find unaccounted-for water



**Install and maintain meters.
Find and fix leaks in the
distribution system.**

**Conduct a water audit and make
recommended improvements.**

Conserve water



**Reduce peak demand
and future supply needs.**

**Help customers look for
leaks and reduce water use.**

Explore renewable energy options



Reduce green house gas emissions by generating or purchasing renewable energy (wind, solar, etc).

Investigate any tax credits.

Save money, manage efficiently



Implement an asset management plan.

Review rate structures for full cost pricing. Include costs for energy/water conservation efforts and utility improvements.

“Walk the talk”



Educate customers and employees that finding savings is everyone’s job.

Promote water and energy efficient products and install them in town buildings.

Use best management practices such as low water-use native gardens and drought-resistant grass.

Communicate



APPOINT someone to track energy and water performance.

USE consumer confidence reports to highlight your savings.

VISIT local schools and community groups to teach the value of water.

Conduct a climate vulnerability analysis



Learn about potential climate change impacts to your area and infrastructure.

Review latest flood maps, weather/drought trends, runoff and recharge changes, water demand trends, and monitor changes in water quality.

Adapt



Design resilient physical structures to address identified climate vulnerabilities.

Adjust operations and source water protection to more effectively manage for climate change impacts.

Update emergency response plans



Emergency standard operating procedures (SOPs) should include response to events such as droughts and floods.

Join your state's Water and Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) for mutual aid support.

Work with your Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC).

**These tools and resources
(and more) are available at:
www.epa.gov/ne/eco/drinkwater**

Energy Audits/Tools:

**EPA Guidebook on Energy Management
for Water and Wastewater Utilities:
a plan-do-check-act environmental assessment methodology**

**EnergySTAR Program and Benchmarking tools
for water/wastewater facilities**

Water Audits/Unaccounted-for Water:

Alliance for Water Efficiency's water audit information

**American Water Works Association's web
clearinghouse for water conservation,
efficiency, and demand management**

Water Conservation:

**EPA New England information on water conservation,
including the Water Conservation Plan Guidelines
publication for water system planners**

**EPA WaterSense is a voluntary water efficiency
program that helps consumers identify water-efficient
products and programs, including information on
irrigation landscape partners that can help you reduce
outdoor water consumption, save money, and
maintain a healthy and beautiful landscape**

Green/Renewable:

DOE's information on energy efficiency and renewable energy

EPA Green Power Partnership, a voluntary program that supports the organizational procurement of green power by offering expert advice, technical support, tools and resources.

Manage Efficiently:

EPA information on Sustainable Infrastructure and Asset Management tools, workshops and guides for Water & Wastewater

EPA CUPSS software is a free, easy-to-use, asset management tool for small drinking water and wastewater utilities.

“Walk the Talk”/Communicate:

EPA EnergySTAR and WaterSense voluntary conservation partnership programs

EPA WaterSense water conservation educational materials for teachers/students

Climate Vulnerability Analysis:

EPA Climate Change information on science and health/environmental effects, resources

USGS water resources information

American Water Works Research Foundation report on drinking water and climate change

Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies climate change information

Adapt/Emergency Response Plan:

EPA Water Security & Preparedness resources and tools for water infrastructure



This especially durable synthetic substraight enters the waste stream at a far slower rate than conventional papers.

A category 5 polypropylene (PP) plastic film, it is fully recyclable and will remain inert in any approved landfill. Safely incinerated in a modern incinerator with an atmosphere of excess oxygen, it will yield only water, carbon dioxide, and ash.

Top 10 List • At-a-Glance

- 10. Reduce energy use**
- 9. Find unaccounted-for water**
- 8. Conserve water**
- 7. Explore renewable energy options**
- 6. Save money, manage efficiently**
- 5. “Walk the talk”**
- 4. Communicate**
- 3. Conduct a climate vulnerability analysis**
- 2. Adapt**
- 1. Update emergency response plans**

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Drinking
Water
Security

www.epa.gov/ne/eco/drinkwater/