



# Water Conservation Advisory Council

[www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org)

## Purpose for the Water Conservation Advisory Council

Water conservation is critical to the future economic and environmental viability of Texas. By 2060, more than 46 million people are expected to call Texas home – twice as many Texans as now. The state’s 2011 regional water plans call for 24.3 percent of new water supplies to come from conservation over the next 50 years. That percentage totals more than 2 million acre-feet per year.

Record-breaking stretches of scorching weather and lack of rain has caused nearly every corner of the state of Texas to experience severe or exceptional drought. Despite the severely dry conditions, this drought is not as bad as the worst drought of record – the 10-year drought of the 1940-50s. It is projected that almost 22 million acre-feet of water per year would be required to meet the water demands of the state’s homes, businesses, and agricultural enterprises if the drought of record were to occur. Increasing population, increasing demand on water supplies and increased frequency of drought allows us to recognize the vital role of conservation in meeting the future water needs of Texas.

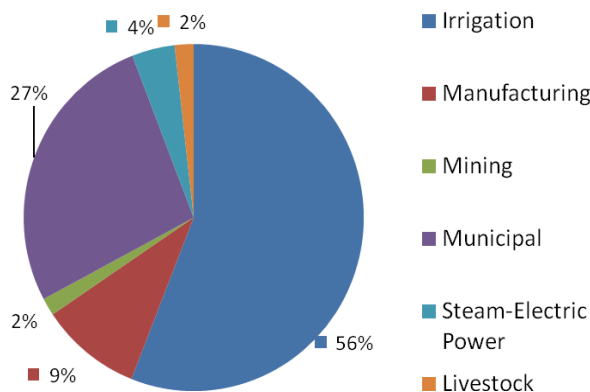
Recognizing the importance of water conservation in Texas, the legislature created the Water Conservation Advisory Council in 2007, a group consisting of 23 experts representing various agencies, political subdivisions, water users, and interest groups. The legislature directed the Council to address several charges and to report to state leadership before every legislative session.

## Duties of the Council

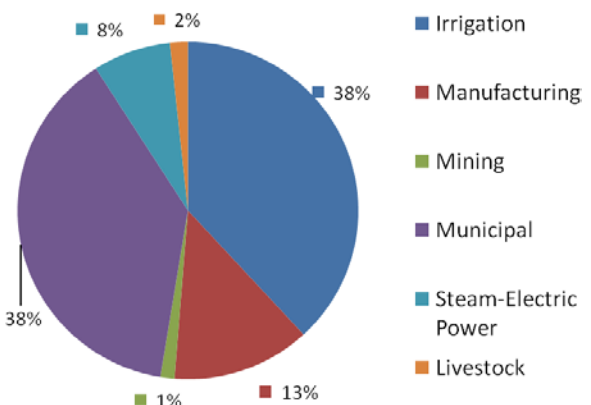
Duties of the Water Conservation Advisory Council:

- Monitoring trends in water conservation implementation
- Monitor new technologies for possible inclusion as best management practices
- Monitoring the effectiveness of the statewide water conservation public awareness program
- Developing and implementing a state water management resource library
- Developing and implementing a public recognition program for water conservation
- Monitoring the implementation of water conservation strategies by water users included in regional water plans
- Monitoring target and goal guidelines for water conservation to be considered by the TWDB and TCEQ

2010 Water Demand Projections for Texas from 2011 Regional Water Plans



2060 Water Demand Projections for Texas from 2011 Regional Water Plans



Texas Water Development Board – Demand Projections

## Looking Forward

We recognize that stakeholder involvement is essential to the Council's work and recommendations on refining metrics, developing best management practices, and documenting trends. The following are primary areas where the Council plans to focus its efforts in the next biennium.

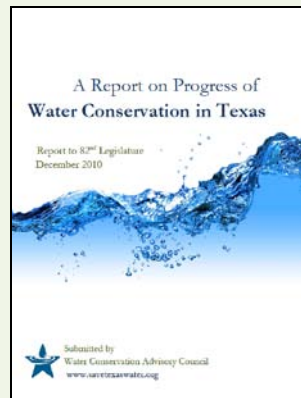
**Water Use Metrics and Methodologies:** Existing measurements for conservation are inconsistently used and create confusion and inaccurate information. Currently there are very limited uniform metrics in place today for water conservation programs. The Council will continue to work towards developing uniform metrics for all sectors of water use. The Council plans to work closely with the Texas Water Development Board, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, and other key stakeholder groups and state agencies to evaluate current metrics and methodologies for the analysis of water use and conservation. It is our hope that this evaluation will lead to the adoption of metrics that all water users can use to evaluate their water conservation successes. With a uniform set of metrics it will be possible to accurately measure water conservation progress in Texas and to identify trends in implementation.

**Public Awareness and Recognition:** The Council will continue to work closely with stakeholder groups to document efforts and impacts of public awareness efforts and programs throughout the state. Additionally the Council plans to expand our recognition awards program that recognizes success in water conservation efforts in the following water user categories: *Agriculture, Industrial, and Municipal*. The Council also looks forward to participating in the review process for the Water Conservation Category of the Texas Environmental Excellence Award.

**Library Website:** The Council will continue to participate in a cooperative effort with the Alliance for Water Efficiency in the development of a national water conservation reference clearing house.

**Water Conservation for Energy:** The Council plans to work with the State Energy Conservation Office to identify water conservation opportunities associated with energy consumption and to identify the energy savings that are associated with water conservation Best Management Practices.

**Best Management Practices Guide:** A large majority of successful water conservation programs identify and implement best management practices as strategies for using water more efficiently. The Council plans to increase its efforts to improve and promote the [Best Management Practices guide](#). The Council intends to work closely with stakeholder groups to actively communicate requests for revisions, additions, or deletions to the [Best Management Practices guide](#). Additionally the Council plans to work closely with stakeholder groups to identify case studies where Best Management Practices or strategies have been implemented successfully. The Council believes that identification of case studies will help to provide guidance and resources to water user groups as they evaluate their conservation and efficiency goals.



You can find the full length reports at the Council's website:

[www.savetexaswater.org](http://www.savetexaswater.org)

No later than December 1 of each even-numbered year, the Council is to submit to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and

the House of Representatives a report on progress made in water conservation in this state.

The Council's 2010 legislative report discusses progress made on the specific legislative charges including any challenges the Council faced in addressing those charges.

The Council's 2008 legislative report focused on the development of three core elements for achieving success in water conservation. Along with identifying the core elements the report focused on a number of key findings and recommendations for advancing water conservation in Texas.