



Importance of 65 RGPCD to the North Sagamore Water District

RGPCD (residential gallons per capita per day) is the number of gallons of water used, on average, each day by a resident for purposes such as washing clothes, flushing toilets, showering and lawn watering. RGPCD is computed for a public water supply system by dividing the total metered residential use by the number of residents served by that system. Higher RGPCD values may indicate that residents of the system use substantial water for outdoor use, notably lawn watering. Lower RGPCD values may indicate that a community controls outdoor water use or that the community is densely settled with small lawn areas (for example, cities).

The North Sagamore Water District must meet the requirement of 65 RGPCD (meaning each person should use no more than 65 gallons of water a day averaged out over 365 days) in order to keep our new Water Management Act permit in good standing with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The Water Management Act regulations public water suppliers adhere to are put in place to oversee the withdrawal of water from the earth and in turn protect the environment and the sustainability of drinking water. For the year 2014, the District reported a RGPCD of 78 to the State.

What this means to you and how you can help

In order for the District to meet this requirement each person should use less than 23,500 gallons of water a year. A family of four's water consumption for the year, calculated by adding together the consumption from your last 2 bills, should be below 94,000 gallons.

Water conservation is the key to meeting this goal. We all enjoy a green lawn, but the main objective of a public water system is to supply water for **drinking purposes and fire protection**. Irrigation systems use large amounts of water and watering should be kept to a minimum. Most lawns only require 1 inch of water a week and should be watered infrequently and deeply. Any leak or running toilet within the plumbing of your home should be fixed quickly. Small leaks can add up to thousands of gallons a year if not repaired and will also increase your water bill.

Last year the District pumped 126,000,000 gallons of water to our residential population. In order to meet the condition of 65 RGPCD we must lower our withdrawal by 20,000,000 gallons, so every little bit will help. Many of our residents are already at or below the required RGPCD, but everyone must conserve to meet this permit requirement.

The North Sagamore Water District has information and tools available to our customers at our office to assist with conserving water both inside and outside their homes. You may also purchase low flow shower heads at cost from the District.

