



PEACE RIVER  
REGIONAL DISTRICT

# WATER CONSERVATION

## *IN THE PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT*

### CONTACT

**Shawn Dahlen**

Acting Chief Administrative Officer

T: 250-784-3203

E: [Shawn.dahlen@prrd.ca](mailto:Shawn.dahlen@prrd.ca)

August 2018



# Water Conservation Plan

---

The Peace River Regional District encompasses a broad, rural area in northeastern BC. As such, the District does not provide potable water to residents through a piped network, and many residents do not dispose of waste through a piped sanitary collection system. While the District's Official Community Plan identifies the conservation of natural resources, such as freshwater, as a primary goal, it does not have a formal water conservation plan in place.

The District residents, however, are motivated to conserve water due to a number of factors. Namely, many residents receive their potable water through either drilled wells or by hauling water from the City of Fort St. John's Bulk Water Loading Station and storing it in cisterns. The City of Fort St. John employs a full cost recovery rate structure that charges users for water on a per volume basis. Due to this high cost of purchasing and hauling water and the unreliable supply of well water, residents are inclined to adopt water conservation practices such as the use of low-flow fixtures, irrigation with rain water, shorter bathing times, and many other practical household strategies for reducing water consumption. The cost to haul water will continue to increase, thus it is reasonable to expect that residents will be motivated to continue such water conservation practices or further reduce water consumption.

Nearby users who haul their wastewater to the Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant, as well as those connected directly to the Charlie Lake Wastewater Collection System, pay a fee based on the volume of solid waste disposed of from holding and septic tanks, which encourages conservation as less water and wastewater disposed of indicates less water consumed.

Additionally, users who are directly connected to the Charlie Lake Wastewater Collection System also pay an annual fee for the conveyance and treatment of their effluent (fluid only) to the WWTP. The District is exploring options to move from a flat-rate structure to a volume-based rate structure, to encourage better conservation practices.

The District is also in the midst of constructing five potable water bulk fill stations in Area B. This project involves the upgrade of three existing raw water bulk fill stations to potable water standards and the construction of two new potable water bulk fill stations. Upon construction completion, those who obtain water from these bulk fill stations will be required to pay the District on a per-volume basis. The implementation of these user fees will likely result in lower water consumption as many users who previously obtained raw water at no cost will now pay for their water based on the amount they consume.

Should the District complete the reclaimed water facility at its Charlie Lake Wastewater Treatment Plant, it is likely that the rate of potable water use for non-potable uses in the region would decrease, thereby extending the useful life of potable water infrastructure.

The District is committed to promoting water conservation practices in the region and will continue to explore options for further action.