

## **City Of Camrose Water Conservation / Water Use Policy**

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### **PART 1 - Purpose**

- 1.1 Indoor and outdoor water conservation is important in the effective and efficient use of municipal water resources.
- 1.2 The purpose of this policy is to ensure the effective and efficient use of the City of Camrose water supply by residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional users through a regulatory water conservation framework.
- 1.3 The intent of this Policy is to manage water use in the City of Camrose (including all Regional Customers) when there is a water shortage.
- 1.4 The Water Conservation / Water Use Policy will be enforced, as necessary, in accordance with the current Water Conservation / Water Use Bylaw.
- 1.5 Implementation of the Policy could occur at any time as a result of:
  - 1.5.1 Drought conditions;
  - 1.5.2 Infrastructure repairs;
  - 1.5.3 Unexpected failure of a major water system component resulting in a sudden shortage of water supply capabilities; or
  - 1.5.4 Other unpredictable events.

### **PART 2 - Triggers for Water Conservation / Water Use**

- 2.1 The City of Camrose would initiate the water conservation and water use strategies if:
  - 2.1.1 The City's ability to produce water has been compromised from:
    - 2.1.1.1 Mechanical issues;
    - 2.1.1.2 The quality of the raw water; or
    - 2.1.1.3 A chemical treatment process.
  - 2.1.2 The weather conditions are such that a water shortage may occur; or
  - 2.1.3 The volume of water consumed in the community is of a concern.

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**PART 3 - Water Conservation / Water Use Stages**

- 3.1 There are four levels of proper water usage that will be regulated under this Policy:
- 3.1.1 **Public Advertising** The City of Camrose will maintain an advertisement campaign in relation to methods for residences and businesses to conserve water. A public awareness campaign may include advisory of potential water shortage by local radio broadcast and/or news release, and education programs regarding water conservation measures.
  - 3.1.2 **Implementation of Mandatory Watering Restrictions** Property owners may water lawns, gardens, or flowerbeds, provided it is done in accordance with the procedures outlined in Table 1, herein.
  - 3.1.3 **All Outdoor Water Use is Prohibited** Exception: hand watering of flowerbeds and vegetable gardens will be permitted, provided that the water used has been drawn from:
    - 3.1.3.1 a rain barrel or other storage device which has been filled solely from rain water, or
    - 3.1.3.2 a hose with a nozzle fitted with a trigger shut-off to restrict water flow.
  - 3.1.4 **Emergency Measures Required** This stage in the Water Conservation / Water Use Policy would be implemented if there was a Water Treatment Plant or Water Distribution System failure or a serious water shortage.
- 3.2 With each water conservation and water use stage, the following procedures will be implemented (Table 1):

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**Table 1  
Water Usage Stages**

	<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Stage 4</b>
What are the restrictions proposed? (continued)	None at this stage	<p>Watering of lawns may occur only during the following hours: 6:00am 9:00am 7:00pm 11:00pm</p> <p>Flowerbeds and vegetable gardens may be watered at any time using and approved drip irrigation system, or by hand using a watering can or a hose with a nozzle fitted with a trigger shut-off to restrict water flow.</p> <p>Sprinklers and water toys may be used for recreational purposes by children as long as children are actively playing; includes children's pools of a capacity not more than 1,000 litres.</p>	<p>All outdoor and non-essential water use is prohibited (eg. Washing cars, sidewalks, pads, exteriors of buildings, recreational use of sprinklers and water toys and lawns etc.)</p> <p><b>EXCEPTIONS</b> Flowerbeds and vegetable gardens may be watered at any time using and approved drip irrigation system, or by hand using a watering can or a hose with a nozzle fitted with a trigger shut-off to restrict water flow.</p>	<p>All outdoor water use is prohibited.</p> <p>Bulk water sales will be allowed for residential use only.</p>
How will the community be informed that this stage in the policy has been implemented?	Advertisements in the local newspapers.	Stage 1 measures; plus announcements on local radio stations and television.	Stage 2 measures; plus road signs placed in high traffic areas.	Stage 3 measures; plus door to door campaigns.
How will the City Facilities be maintained in relation to each stage? (spray park, pool, golf course, UDF program, watering of public lawns and flowers)	No special restrictions are required.	The City will follow the same watering restrictions for all municipal facilities as what the general public follows.	<p>There will be no watering of lawns, flowers or use of water unless required for essential water use.</p> <p>The Spray Park and UDF program will not be operational under this stage.</p>	The City Manager will work with all department heads to institute emergency water use measures.
Percent Target Reduction of Total Water Consumption.	10 %	15 %	25 %	50 %

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### **PART 4 - Community Notification**

- 4.1 When a level of restriction has been imposed pursuant to this Policy, the municipality shall advertise and provide notice of the level of restriction in effect by any method which may include one or more of the following means:
  - 4.1.1 Advertisement in a newspaper of central circulation in the area of the municipality to which the restrictions apply;
  - 4.1.2 Announcement via local radio station, and or local community television channel;
  - 4.1.3 Notification through road signs placed strategically in high traffic areas within the City of Camrose; and/or
  - 4.1.4 Notification through a door to door campaign.

### **PART 5 - Essential Water Use**

- 5.1 The provisions of this policy shall not apply to internal critical uses by emergency services, extended care facilities, schools, disable care facilities, and group homes, where a reduction in the supply of water may have an adverse impact of public health and safety.
- 5.2 The policy measures will be reviewed at Stage 4 of the Water Conservation / Water Use Policy for the following groups:
  - 5.2.1 Businesses that depend on water to deliver a product or service, for example:
    - 5.2.1.1 Commercial car washes; or
    - 5.2.1.2 Market gardens; or
    - 5.2.1.3 Greenhouses; or
    - 5.2.1.4 Commercial farm contractors; or
    - 5.2.1.5 Golf course greens.

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### **PART 5 - Essential Water Use - Continued**

5.2.2 Residential water necessities including:

5.2.2.1 Lawns with new sod.

5.2.3 Regional customers will be notified of these measures and may be asked to cooperate on a voluntary basis or as required by their respective service agreements.

### **PART 6 - Exemptions for New Sod**

6.1 In relation to this Policy, there are exemptions to the water conservation / water use stages which include new sod.

6.2 Residents will be able to water their newly-laid sod for all stages up to and including Stage 3 in this Policy, pursuant to the procedures outlined in section 6.3, herein. If Stage 3 is implemented, sod may only be watered by hand using any of the methods outlined in subsections 3.1.3.1 through 3.1.3.2, herein. If Stage 4 occurs, new sod may not be watered.

6.3 New Sod Care Watering Instructions (as outlined in section 6.2; this is not applicable for Stage 4 water restrictions)

6.3.1 Water the soil approximately twenty-four (24) hours before the sod arrives. This will create moisture reserves in the soil. Water well enough in advance so that the soil surface will not be wet and soggy when the sod does arrive.

6.3.2 On the day the sod is laid, water in the evening between 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

6.3.3 Water the sod just to the run-off point; do not leave the sprinkler running. Sod needs frequent, light watering to get established.

6.3.4 On day two, you may water again in the morning and evening. Water just to the run-off point.

6.3.5 For the next few days, watering once a day should be enough and the sod should have achieved a knit (root growth).

6.3.6 For the next two weeks, water once per day for two or three days per week, depending on weather. No additional watering of the sod is needed when the sod is naturally watered as a result of precipitation.

6.3.7 After three weeks, the sod should be established, and watering once per week would be sufficient (to a maximum of 1 to 2 inches of water per watering).

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**PART 7 - Wasting Water**

- 7.1 All consumers or persons are prohibited from wasting water when the provisions of this Policy are in effect.
- 7.2 The Bylaw Officer or designate may take action under the Water Conservation / Water Use Bylaw if a consumer or person is found to be wasting water. In determining if an activity constitutes wasting water, consideration will be given to the following:
  - 7.2.1 The volume of water reasonably required to perform the activity undertaken;
  - 7.2.2 The length of time that water has been allowed to run;
  - 7.2.3 The degree of control exercised over the flow of water;
  - 7.2.4 The purpose to which the water is being put;
  - 7.2.5 The stage of conservation on water consumption presently in place;
  - 7.2.6 The existence of any other factors reasonably suggesting that the wasting of water is occurring or has occurred; and
  - 7.2.7 Special circumstances where the consumer or person can show to the satisfaction of the City that the use of water was necessary.