

REGULATED
INDUSTRIES
COMMISSION 

Protecting YOUR Interests

WATER CONSERVATION



REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMMISSION (RIC)

MISSION STATEMENT

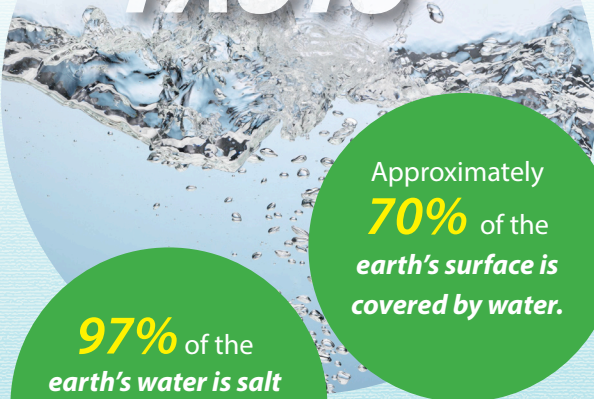
To ensure the promotion of the highest quality of utility services at fair and reasonable rates while building a credible regulatory regime that responds adequately to stakeholders' concerns and also to ensure fairness, transparency and equity in the provision of utility services throughout the country.



*Protecting **YOUR** Interests*

WATER CONSERVATION

FAST FACTS



Approximately **70%** of the *earth's surface is covered by water.*

97% of the *earth's water is salt water* contained in the seas and oceans

Only **3%** exists as *freshwater*

2% of the earth's water is *frozen in glaciers and ice caps*

Only **1%** of all *the earth's water is available as fresh water for human consumption.*

WATER IS PRECIOUS



About two-thirds of the human body is made up of water and some organs have an even higher proportion. Human skin, for example, contains 70% water, and the brain contains 75% water. A person can typically survive for a month without food but can only go for 5 to 7 days without water. Water is also a vital part of the food supply chain. On a worldwide scale, food production and agriculture are the largest users of water, requiring one hundred times more than the amount used for personal needs. Water plays a critical role in many other important activities as well, such as transportation, manufacturing, electricity generation and cleaning. It would be impossible to sustain the quality of life that we enjoy today without a significant supply of fresh, clean water.

With the onset of global warming, and the projected change in climate, it is expected that extreme weather conditions will continue to put stress on the ability of the water supply system to deliver.

trinidad and tobago WATER CHALLENGES

A significant amount of the water that is treated for drinking in Trinidad and Tobago is lost through leaks in the transmission and distribution networks, as well as on the premises of customers.

Deterioration of the water supply infrastructure over the years has resulted in a system with significant leaks and losses. In addition to the leakage that takes place in the water supply network, a significant amount of water is also wasted by customers. This problem stems from the unmetered billing, which has been in use by the utility for most residential customers since its inception. Irrespective of the amount of water used by residential customers, they generally pay a fixed amount to the utility for the water supplied. There is, therefore, very little economic incentive to conserve water or repair leaks. As a result, a significant portion of the water loss takes place on customers' premises. Some estimates put the amount of water loss on customers' premises at almost half of the total loss in the system. This is compounded by the fact that Trinidad and Tobago is facing severe water challenges. There is a shortfall in the amount of clean water available to satisfy demand. Annual demand for potable water was projected at 261 million gallons per day (mgd) in 2014, while supply was estimated at 230 mgd. This means an average short fall of 31 mgd.

Water loss and wastage increase the cost of providing water supply services to customers. This ultimately affects the rate charged to customers as well as the quality of service that is provided between rate reviews. Therefore, preventing water loss in the network, as well as on the customer premises, will contribute to improving the water supply system for all stakeholders.

TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION



We all can make a significant difference in the conservation of water by modifying our water use habits and changing the way we think about water.

A few simple steps that we can take will cause a tremendous improvement in the efficiency and sustainability of water use in Trinidad and Tobago.

✓ LEAKS

Fix Leaks Promptly!

Pipe Leaks

An overflowing water tank wastes an average of 3 gallons of water every minute; enough to fill a 500 gallon tank in less than 3 hours.

Faucet Leaks

A showerhead leaking at 10 drips per minute wastes more than 500 gallons per year.

A leaky faucet that drips at the rate of one drip per second can waste more than 3,000 gallons per year.

Toilet Leaks

A toilet that is running constantly, wastes 200 gallons of water or more every day. Many toilet leaks can be fixed with simple tools, relatively inexpensive replacement parts and a do-it-yourself manual.

✓ LAUNDRY ROOM

Use the washing machine for full loads only to save water and energy. Install a water-efficient clothes washer.

Save: 16 gallons/load.

✓ KITCHEN

Run the dishwasher only when full to save water and energy. Install a water- and energy-efficient dishwasher.

Save: 3 to 8 gallons/load. Install aerators on the kitchen faucet to reduce flows to less than one gallon per minute.

✓ BATHROOM

Install low-flow shower heads.

Save: 2.5 gallons/minute.

Take five minute showers instead of 10 minute showers. The average five-minute shower consumes between 15 to 25 gallons of water. A 10-minute shower consumes about 50 gallons of water.

Save: Reducing five minutes will save 2.5 gallons with a low flow showerhead, 25 gallons with a standard 5 gallon per minute showerhead.

Turn water off when brushing teeth or shaving. Turning off the tap saves up to 20 to 30 gallons of water per person per week.

Save: approximately 8 gallons/day.

Don't use the toilet as wastebasket.

Save: 1.6 to 5 gallons/flush.

✓ LANDSCAPE

Reduce your watering days to once or twice per week. Water your lawn only when it needs it. Water early in the morning or later in the evening when temperatures are cooler.

Save: 25 gallons/each time you water.

Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation and keep the soil cool. Organic mulch also improves the soil and prevents weeds.

Save: 20 to 30 gallons/each time you water/1,000 sq. ft.

✓ CLEANUP

Use a broom to clean driveways, sidewalks and patios, not your hose. Save: 8 to 18 gallons/minute.

Wash cars with a bucket and sponge, instead of a hose.

Save: 8 to 18 gallons/minute.

✓ ACTIVITIES

Teach children that the hose and sprinkler are not toys.

Save: 30 gallons/day.

Encourage others to save water.

By passing the word along and encouraging the behavior change, individuals can become the most effective agents in influencing friends and family to be more water efficient.



Customer Service Toll Free Number
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