

Human Well-Being



Strengthening Community Resilience Through Municipal Water Management



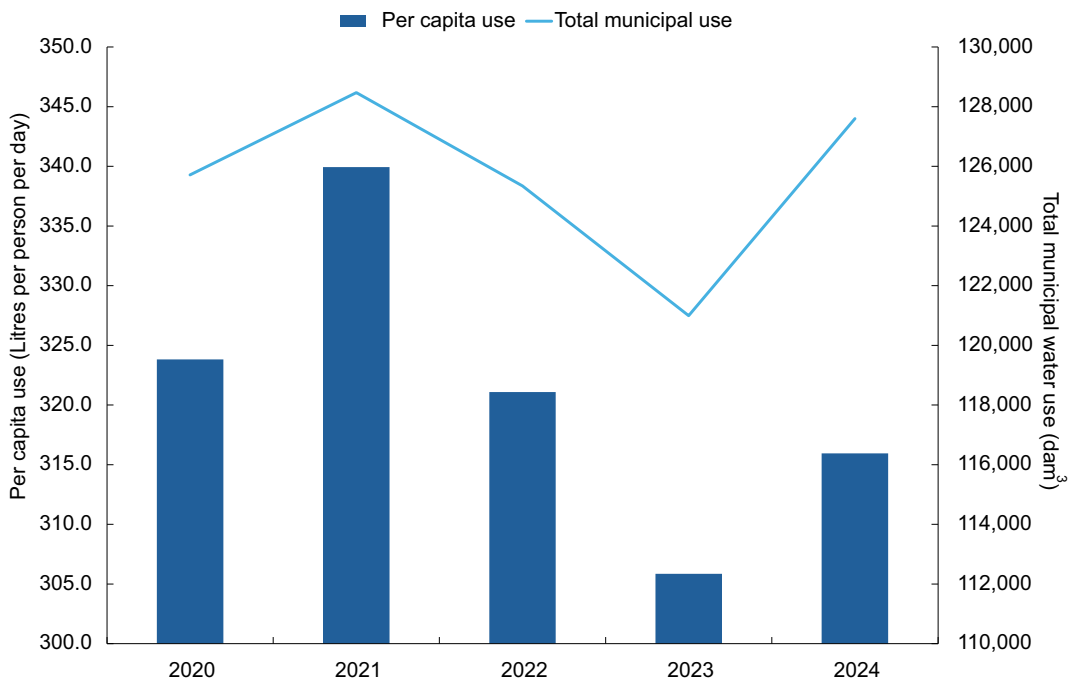
Water is essential to daily life across Saskatchewan, from drinking water in homes to parks, recreation and community safety. The Water Security Agency monitors and regulates municipal water use across the province to help protect water quality, ensure reliable supply, and manage shared resources responsibly.

Although Saskatchewan is home to more than 100,000 lakes and rivers, only about 10,000 of these waterbodies are used to meet human needs such as drinking water, industry and recreation. As well, water availability and demand are not evenly spread across the province, which makes careful planning especially important. Southern Saskatchewan has higher water demand, reflecting larger population centres and water-intensive industries such as oil and potash extraction and irrigation. This region also tends to be drier and experiences greater swings in yearly precipitation. These conditions increase the importance of tracking how water is used and finding ways to use it efficiently.

The Water Security Agency reports municipal water consumption data each year for most Saskatchewan communities. Municipal water use data includes water used for drinking, filling water tanks, maintaining parks and golf courses, and protecting communities through fire suppression. Tracking this information helps municipalities plan for future needs and manage water systems more effectively.

One important measure is water use per person. When per-person water use declines, it often shows that communities are becoming more efficient without reducing services or quality of life. Looking at both per-person and total water use helps explain how efficiency supports growth. When per-person use goes down while total use remains steady, communities can grow in population or economic activity without increasing overall water demand.

The Water Security Agency supports responsible water use through public education, partnerships and conservation programs. Water rates that reflect the true cost of designing, building, operating and maintaining water systems also encourage careful and efficient use.



**Total municipal usage provided by municipal distribution systems*

Everyday Choices That Save Water

Saskatchewan residents use an average of 365 litres of water per person each day. Small actions to improve water efficiency can reduce water use while lowering household costs and supporting optimized water use across Saskatchewan communities. Four commonly applied water-efficiency steps – often called the **4Rs** – offer a practical starting point.

- **Reduce:** Use less water where possible by being mindful of everyday habits. Shorter showers, smaller baths and turning off taps when they are not needed can significantly reduce water use. Running only the amount of water required, filling the sink when washing dishes by hand instead of letting water run and avoiding flushing items that do not belong in the toilet all help conserve water without affecting daily comfort.
- **Replace:** When upgrades are needed, older fixtures and appliances can be replaced with water-efficient models. Modern WaterSense-labelled toilets, faucets and appliances use significantly less water while maintaining strong performance.
- **Repair:** Leaks should be fixed as soon as they are found. Even small, slow leaks can waste a surprising amount of water over time. Many common leaks can be repaired easily by replacing worn washers or cartridges, helping prevent unnecessary water loss and avoiding damage to plumbing systems.
- **Reuse:** Rainwater or grey water can sometimes be collected for non-drinking purposes such as watering lawns and gardens or flushing toilets, where permitted. Some communities support on-site reuse systems that collect water from roofs, bathtubs or showers. Local municipal rules should always be checked first, as requirements may vary across Saskatchewan.



Did you know?

Water use can often be reduced without affecting comfort by choosing efficient appliances and keeping them well maintained. [WaterSense](#) is a Water-efficiency Labelling Program developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) that helps consumers easily identify products designed to use less water while maintaining strong performance.



The Water Security Agency has chosen to adopt and promote the WaterSense label in Saskatchewan as part of its mandate to support optimized water use and responsible management of water quantity. This approach reflects a broader commitment by Canada's premiers to encourage strong water-efficiency standards and practical, easy-to-use labelling for consumers. Rather than creating a new system from scratch, Saskatchewan has adopted a label that is already widely recognized, independently certified and available through local retailers.

WaterSense-labelled products typically use 20 per cent less water than conventional alternatives while maintaining strong performance. By promoting a trusted and familiar label, Saskatchewan is making it easier for households and businesses to choose water-efficient products that support long-term water reliability across the province.

Why It Matters

Communities across Saskatchewan are finding ways to use water more efficiently. As per-person water use decreases, municipalities can support population growth and economic activity while easing pressure on water sources and infrastructure. Using less water also supports emissions stewardship by reducing the energy needed to pump, treat and deliver water, helping manage emissions intensity within municipal systems.

By reducing demand and improving system performance, communities are also better prepared to respond to changes in water quality or availability during periods of environmental variability. Over time, these efforts help protect water sources, extend the life of infrastructure and support resilient communities across Saskatchewan.

Link to Related Information

[Household Guide to Water Efficiency](#)

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