



Water Supply Development

The Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) believes that water supply development plays a critical role in meeting future water demands. In Florida, state statutes recognize the challenge involved in ensuring that sufficient water be available for all existing and future reasonable-beneficial uses and that adverse effects of competition for water supplies be avoided.

To meet that challenge, the statute FS 373.019(21) defines these two distinct roles:

- Water resource planning and development
- Water supply development

The state's five water management districts are charged with water resource planning and development. Local governments, regional water supply authorities, and government-owned and privately-owned water utilities are charged with water supply development.

Water supply development in Florida is defined as "the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of public or private facilities for water collection, production, treatment, transmission, or distribution for sale, resale, or end use."

Current approaches to supply development include:

- Conservation
- Demand-management strategies/technologies
- Water reuse/reclamation strategies/technologies
- Desalination strategies/technologies

Conservation

Water conservation offers an immediate, low-cost approach to meet increasing supply needs. Common goals for conservation programs include increasing water use efficiency, maximizing system capacity, and limiting increase financial impact to customers.

Demand-management strategies and technologies

Demand-management strategies and technologies provide a range of opportunities – from conservation incentives, such as rebate programs, to water restrictions and rate incentive structures – to reduce water demand among residential and commercial users.

Water reuse/reclamation strategies and technologies

Water reuse/reclamation strategies and technologies include projects that treat water otherwise lost through discharge, evaporation or run-off to near drinking water quality for irrigation, programs to treat and store water during regional rainy seasons for withdrawal and use during dry periods, and aquifer recharge projects.

Desalination strategies/technologies

Desalination strategies and technologies offer the opportunity to harvest and treat water from Florida's coastal areas to increase available potable water supplies.

The FSAWWA realizes that it will take a combination of these technologies and approaches to meet future water demands and supports the efforts of communities throughout the state.

(Note: Recommend that contact information, Web address and FSAWWA mission is added to each issue paper.)