

CONSERVING OUR WATER

The Comox Valley Water System (CVWS) draws its supply from Comox Lake reservoir. This system provides drinking water to approximately 41,000 residents who work and play in Courtenay and Comox. Please use water wisely; it is important for domestic water (household use and fire protection), fish and wildlife habitats, and power generation.

» CONSERVATION IS IMPORTANT

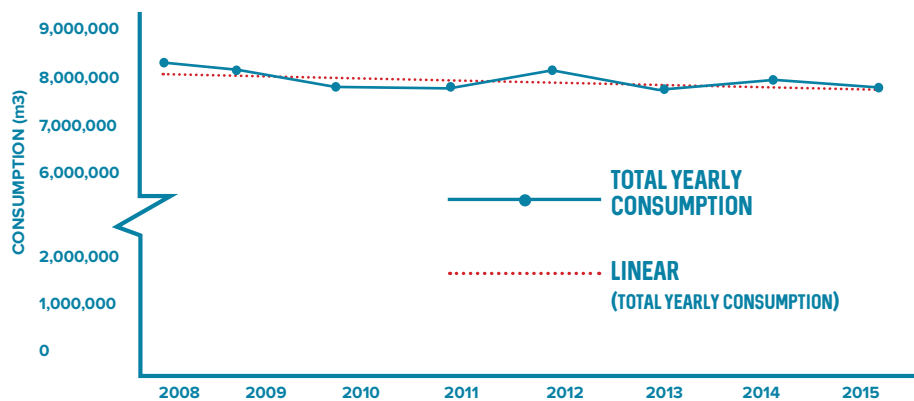
It is good practice to conserve water and make it a habit rather than a hassle. While Comox Lake is a large lake with a surface area of 2100 hectares, only the top 4.5 meters are available for domestic water. If the lake reservoir drops more than 4.5m from its maximum height the Puntledge river would be unable to supply adequate water flows for fish and wildlife, power generation or domestic water. BC Hydro monitors and controls lake levels carefully to ensure that this does not happen. Conserving water is for everyone's benefit.

The Water Sustainability Act is monitored by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and has established criteria for minimum fish flows in rivers supplying domestic water. For the Comox Valley Water System, the section of the Puntledge River from the diversion dam to the hydro-generating station must contain enough water to adequately sustain fish populations before any other use – including domestic water and power generation.

» LONG-TERM PLANNING

The Comox Valley Sustainability Strategy has set a goal of reducing household water consumption from 2008 levels 30% by 2020. The CVRD is continually working to meet this target.

TOTAL YEARLY CONSUMPTION



» WATER EFFICIENCY

In order to ensure the long term sustainability of our water sources and systems we must use our resources efficiently. The Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) in cooperation with the City of Courtenay and Town of Comox has developed a water efficiency plan that includes an updated water conservation bylaw and offers rebates to property owners to replace inefficient toilets with high efficiency ones and smart irrigation timers controlled by weather conditions. It is important to note that to claim a rebate you must be the property owner, be serviced by the CVWS, and show proof of purchase.

For information or to download a rebate application form, please go to: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/rebates

FUN FACT

DID YOU KNOW THAT 65% of household water is used in the bathroom? An average shower uses 7.9 litres of water per minute!

» WATER CONSERVATION BYLAW

The Comox Valley Water Conservation Bylaw was updated to reduce consumption so that the system can provide essential water needs. Water restrictions are an important management tool of any water system. It is common practice to limit consumption during peak use times so that there is always enough water in the system for essential domestic uses (drinking water, fire protection).

There are four stages in the bylaw, stage one limits household watering to every other day, and unless otherwise notified the Comox Valley Water System operates under stage one all year.

STAGE 1

STAGE 2

STAGE 3

STAGE 4

Stage two is implemented when:

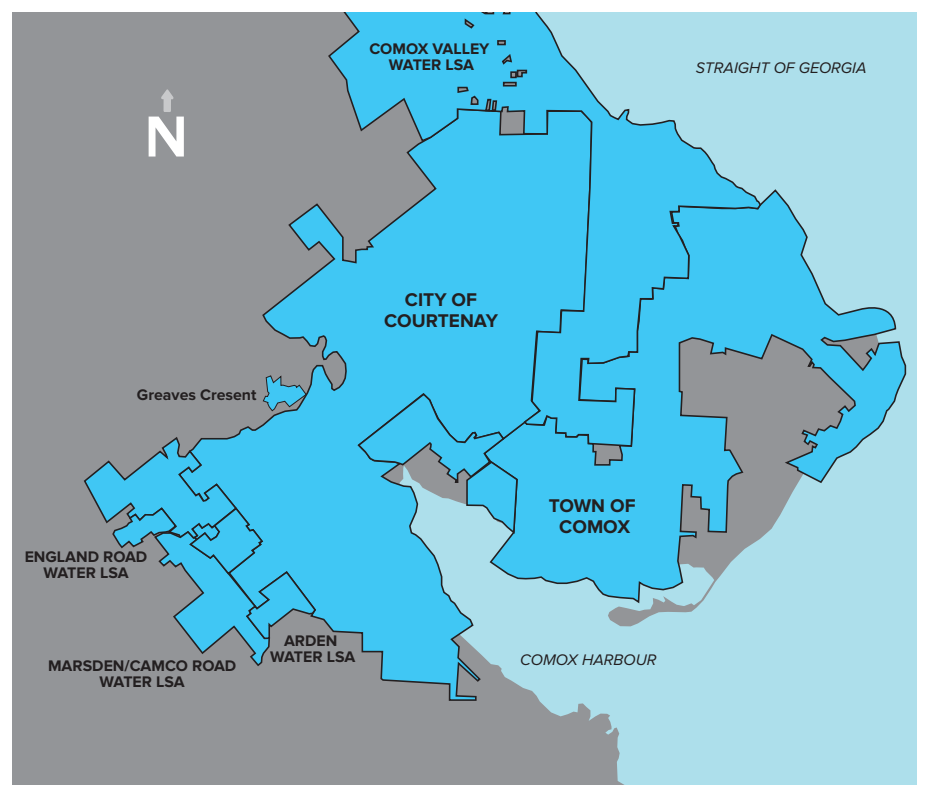
- The inflow to the lake reservoir is less than the outflow, creating a decreasing lake level.
- There is a significant increase in consumption.
- BC Hydro reduces power generation to save water, the CVRD must follow suit.

Stage three is implemented when:

- Extreme drought levels occur and BC Hydro reduces flow in the Puntledge River.
- BC Hydro shuts down its penstock for maintenance and the CVRD must pump water directly from the river using emergency standby pumps.

For more detailed information about the water conservation bylaw, please refer to: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/restrictions

Water restrictions apply to all households connected to the Comox Valley Water system: City of Courtenay; Town of Comox; and the local water service areas of Arden, Comox Valley (Little River/Seal Bay), England Road, Marsden/Camco, and Greaves Crescent.



For detailed maps of the CVWS, please go to: www.comoxvalleyrd.ca/watersystem

Concerned about your habits or those of others? If you have a water use concern, contact your local bylaw enforcement officer:

Area B: waterenforcement@comoxvalleyrd.ca

Town of Comox: bsmith@comox.ca phone: 250-339-2202

City of Courtenay: waterconservation@courtenay.ca; phone: 250-334-4441