

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Water Conservation Efforts Extended

Bedford Community Asked to Conserve Water

Bedford, Va. — Bedford County is currently experiencing severe drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Despite the ongoing dry weather, Bedford Water (BW) continues to maintain a reliable water supply through its three drinking water sources: Smith Mountain Lake, Stoney Creek Reservoir, and water purchased from Lynchburg Water Resources.

This diversified system has allowed BW to meet customer demand without implementing conservation measures for most customers throughout the summer. As drought conditions have persisted, all three water sources have been impacted. While there is still ample water available from all three sources, BW is following the alert stage response of the Drought Response and Water Conservation Plan by requesting voluntary water conservation activities.

Earlier this year, when drought conditions first affected Smith Mountain Lake, BW asked customers in that service area to voluntarily conserve water. To help preserve water resources across the system, BW is now temporarily requesting that **all** Bedford Water customers **voluntarily conserve water use**, with a goal of **lowering overall usage by approximately 5–10%**.

Until further notice, customers are encouraged to limit or eliminate **non-essential water use**, including:

1. Ornamental purposes (fountains, decorative ponds, artificial waterfalls, etc.)
2. Outdoor non-commercial watering (gardens, lawns, recreation areas, etc.)
If you must water, do it in the early morning or late evening to reduce evaporation and use a watering can or other container not exceeding three (3) gallons in capacity.
3. Filling and operation of swimming pools
Cover pools when not in use to limit evaporation.
4. Washing of motor vehicles (automobiles, trucks, boats, and trailers)
5. Fire Hydrants (Except for firefighting and firefighting related activities)
6. Flushing of sewers and hydrants; washing of paved areas (sidewalks, driveways, patios, etc.)
7. Air conditioning (Examples: Refilling cooling tower after draining, etc.)



Brian Key, BW Executive Director, explained, "We are simply expanding the conservation request that was issued to our Smith Mountain Lake customers earlier this summer; it now includes all of the customers in Bedford County."

Other Tips to Save Water

- Run only full dishwashers and washing machines.
- Don't rinse plates before placing them in the dishwasher.
- Don't let the water run while brushing teeth or shaving.
- Take 5-minute (or less) showers instead of baths.
- Use a broom to sweep driveways, walkways, and patios instead of hosing them down.
- Thaw food overnight in the refrigerator rather than using running water.

Key added, "We are hoping for a 5-10% reduction in everyone's usage. By pulling together now to make voluntary changes, we can hopefully avoid mandatory restrictions in the future."

About Bedford Water

Bedford Water (BW) provides reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services to the residents and businesses of Bedford County and the Town of Bedford. With a commitment to collaboration, adaptability, results, enthusiasm, and safety, we ensure that our community thrives through sustainable water management.

At BW, our vision is: *Clean Water. Healthy Environment. Thriving Community.*

For more information, visit www.brwa.com, or please contact:

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