



Town of Fairview Environmental Newsletter

April 2013

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Texas' Move Toward Water Sustainability



The Texas House of Representatives overwhelmingly approved a bill last week that could hold billions of dollars for future projects related to the sustainability of the state's water supply. House Bill 4, which passed with more than 140 votes, would, among other things, create the State Water Implementation Fund. This "water bank" would loan money to fund water-related projects such as water reservoirs, pipelines, and conservation projects. A separate fund within the Bill, the State Water Implementation Revenue Fund, would manage revenue bonds related to water projects. The bill now travels to the Senate for further approval.

House Bill 11, an upcoming companion piece of legislation, would withdraw \$2 billion from Texas' rainy day fund and place this money into the newly created Water Implementation Fund. If voted into law, these two bills would dramatically increase the time and resources that Texas is utilizing to tackle its water shortage problems.

Notably, House Bill 4 requires that 20% of the State Water Implementation fund be utilized on water conservation or reuse pro-

jects. Such a landmark move may come just in time for our state, which is dearly struggling with drought.

According to the 2012 State Water Plan, Texas' water supply is going to decrease by 18% over the next 50 years, while our water demands are going to increase by 27%. If said trend continues, the state could fall short on water by 8.3 million acre-feet by 2060. The State Water Plan contains over 500 strategies that, if fully implemented, will develop 9 million acre-feet of water over the next 50 years. House Bills 4 and 11, if voted into law, will help provide dedicated funding for these strategies.

How Can You Help?

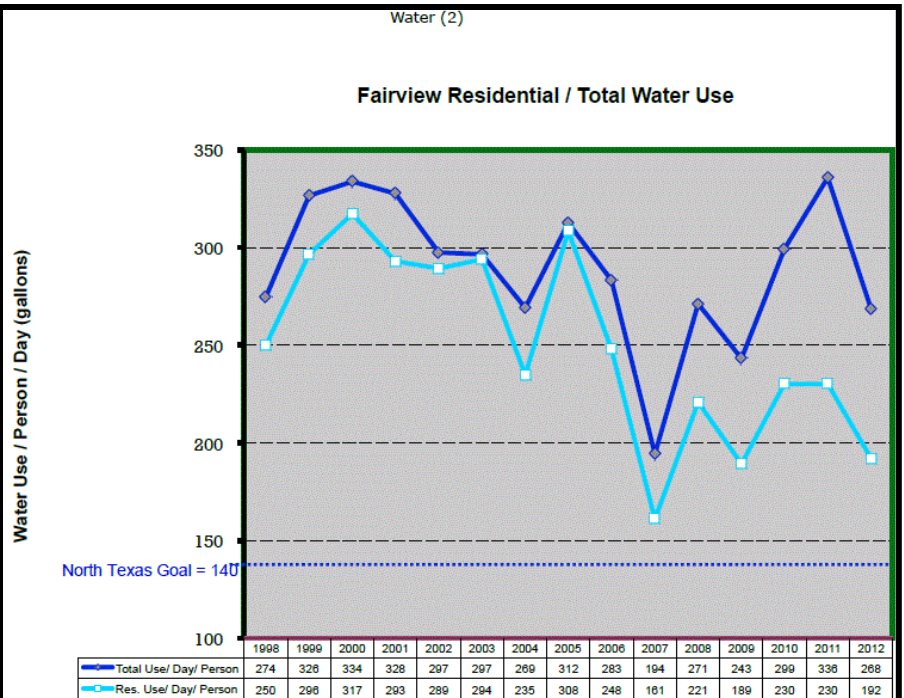
It is important to conserve water in order to ensure that we help keep Texas' lakes, rivers, and landscapes beautiful and lively for years to come. Here are some tips:

- Do not water your lawn during the day.
- Ensure your sprinkler system waters only your lawn and not driveways and streets.
- Plant drought tolerant plants that require less water (www.txsmartscape.com has a suggested list)
- Shop for and use water-efficient appliances and toilets. Fairview has a rebate program for certain types of washing machines.

Fairview's 2012 Residential Water Metrics

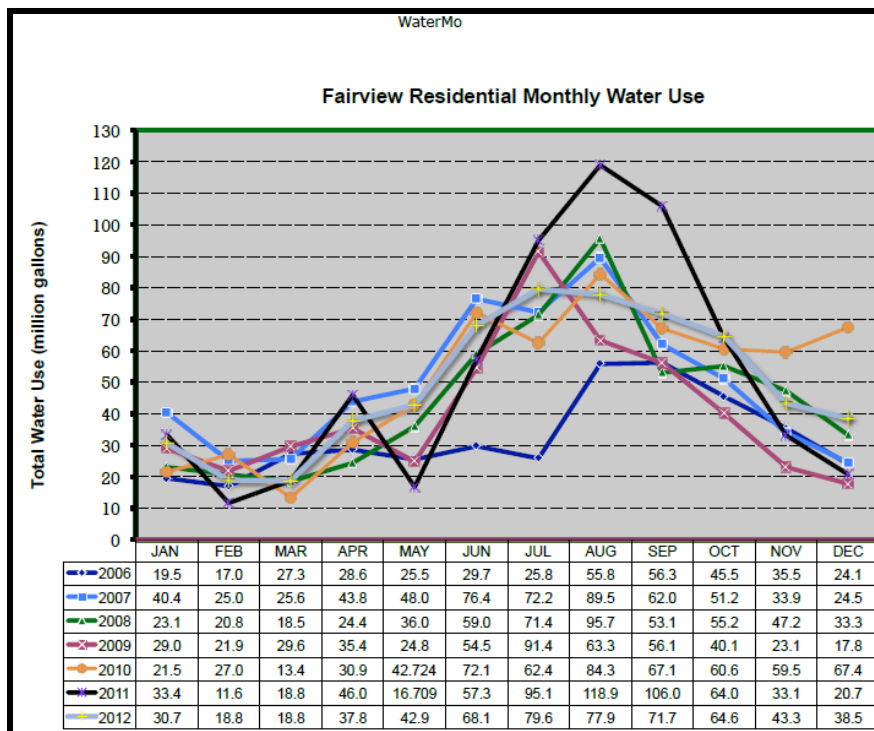
Given the importance of water creation, usage, and conservation in the state of Texas, let's take a look at Fairview's water usage in particular:

The chart to the right displays Fairview's average water use per person. The jagged, light blue line represents the residential water use per day per person, while the jagged, dark blue line above it represents the Town's total use per day per person (including public, commercial, and unaccounted for uses). The dotted blue line below represents Texas' goal of 140 gallons per day per person, a goal which Fairview well exceeds. Though it can be difficult to compare different cities across the state in terms of water usage due to lot size, commercial development, and other factors, it is in the best interest of Fairview and Texas' other municipalities to strive for such a goal in order to have access to a more sustainable water supply in the future. As you can see, Fairview residents decreased their water usage from 2011 to 2012. Using the water-saving techniques described throughout this pamphlet can help the town further reduce its usage and continue on the path toward water sustainability - well as save you money!



Water Saving Tip: Low-Flow Toilets

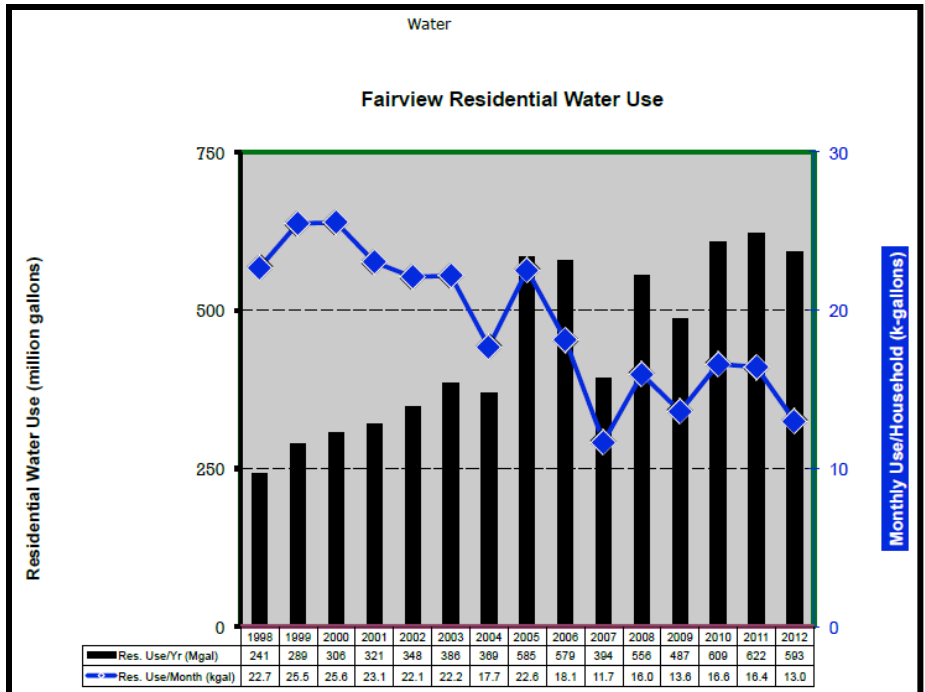
If you have an older home (pre 1992) with 5 gallon or 3.5 gallon per flush toilet models, you can replace them with new 1.28 gallon per flush models, which will significantly cut your water use.



The chart to the left displays Fairview's residential monthly water usage. As you can see, most years expectedly peak during the summer months when more households irrigate their lawns and plants and when swimming pools are in heavier use. As a whole, 2012 falls right into the middle of the pack. Importantly, however, 2012 shows much lower summertime usage than 2011, a year in which summer water use was high despite Stage 2 and 3 water restrictions. Using the water-saving techniques described throughout this pamphlet can help continue this trend and make 2013 an even more environmentally conscious year for the Town of Fairview. Doing so will help the Town as well as the state work towards future sustainability in our water supply.

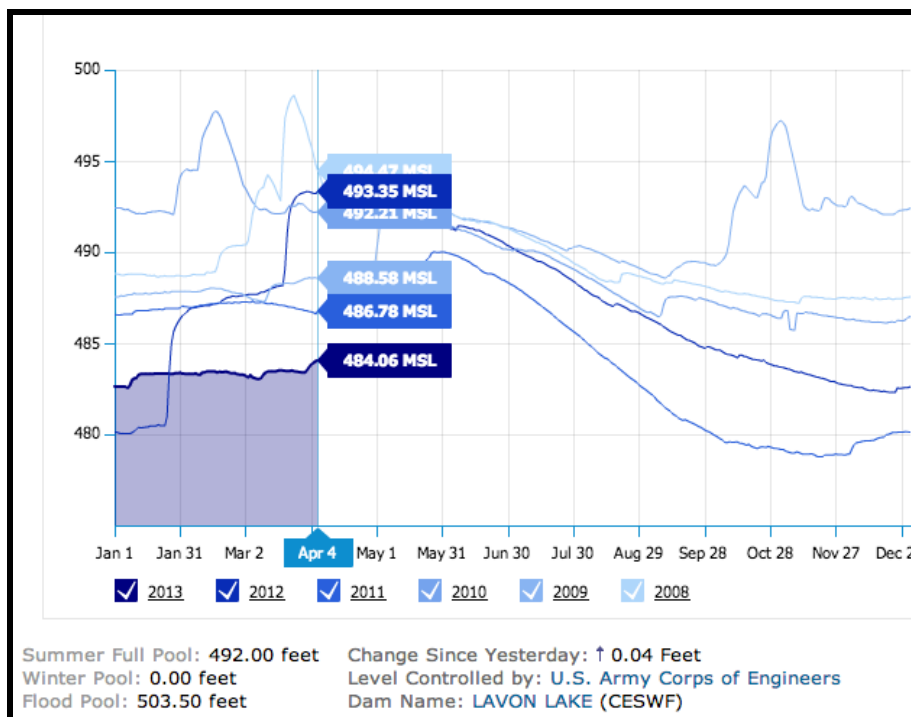
Fairview and Lake Lavon's 2012 Water Metrics

The chart to the right displays Fairview's total annual residential water use in black and the average monthly water use per household with the jagged blue line. Since 1998, you will notice that the average monthly water use per household has trended downward. Much of this can be accounted for by the smaller lots that have recently been developed on the west side of town. Total annual residential water usage remains a bit more constant, but 2012 was still a marked decline from both 2010 and 2011, the town's two highest water use years since 1998. Using the water-saving techniques described throughout this pamphlet can help the town further reduce its usage and continue on the path toward water sustainability - well as save you money!



Water Saving Tip: Irrigation Reduction

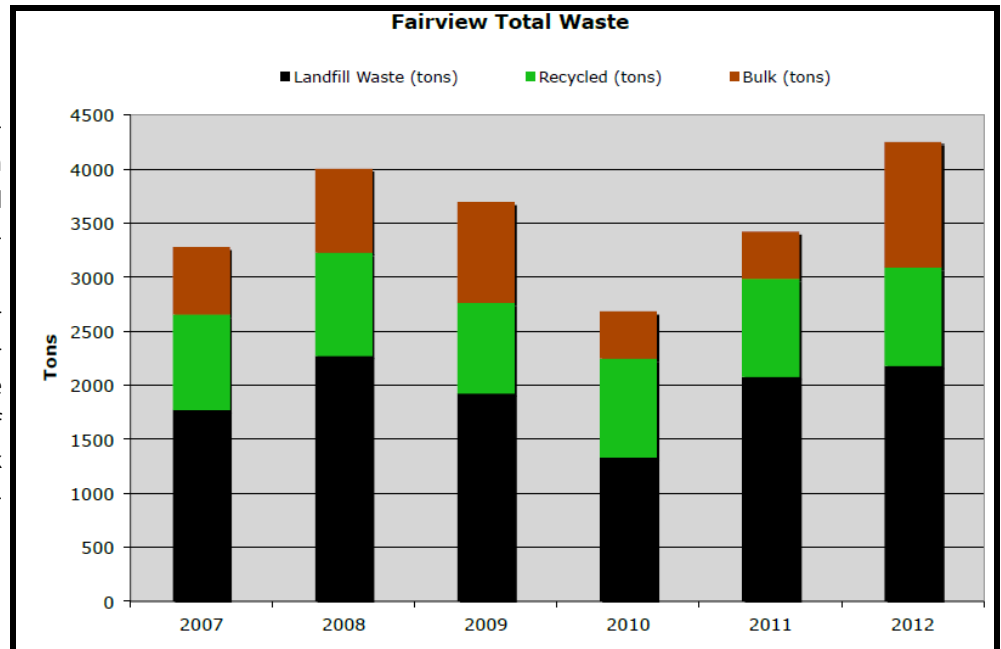
Not all of your acreage has to be irrigated. Native trees and plants will do just fine with no irrigation. Moreover, areas that are planted and irrigated can survive on much less water than is usually applied.



The chart to the left, courtesy of the United States Army Corps of Engineers, further displays the need for water conservation. It tracks the water level of Lake Lavon, the lake which feeds Fairview's water supply. The line atop the purple shaded portion of the graph represents the level of the lake over time from January 1st to April 4th of this year. The other lines represent years 2008-2012. As you can see, with the exception of a few weeks in January of 2011, the lake has been consistently lower this year than it has been in the early months of each of the past five years. This could prove especially worrisome once the lake takes its expected dip downward throughout and following the upcoming summer months. Again, using the water saving techniques described in this pamphlet can help mitigate this problem and keep the lake useful in terms of its water supplying abilities as well as preserve its natural state for fishermen and other recreational users.

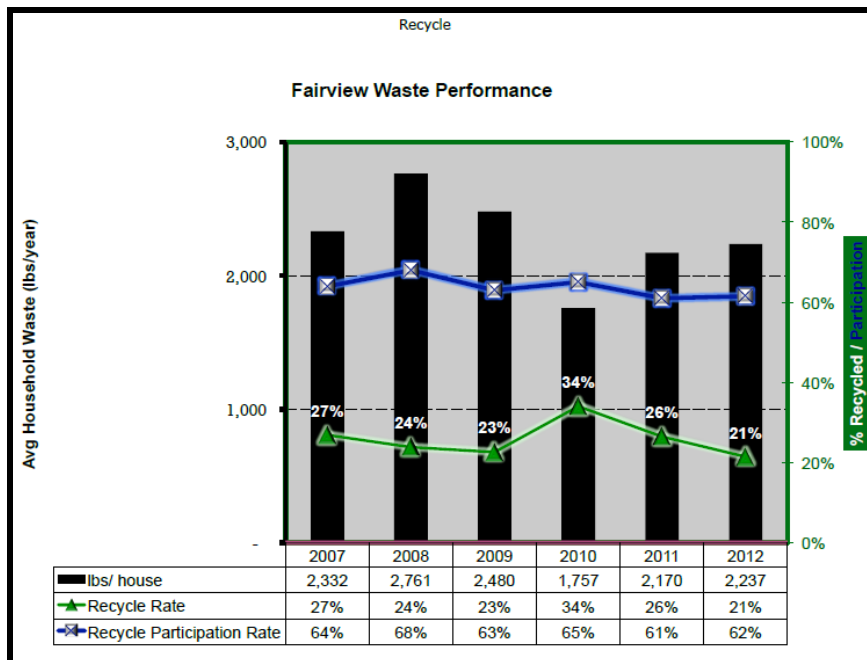
Fairview's 2012 Waste Metrics

The chart to the right displays Fairview's waste trends since 2007 in terms of landfill waste, recycling, and bulk trash. Both 2011 and 2012 display an increase in Fairview's total waste, some of which can be accounted for by the growing population. 2012 displays an overall increase in total waste, the largest cause of which being an increase in bulk waste. Bulk waste is heavily comprised of yard and tree trimmings.



Bulk Waste Reduction Tip: Composting and Mulching

With a little practice, you can reduce your bulk waste and turn it into useful gardening materials! Consider a compost pile for yard waste and hire a chipper to shred your tree trimmings into useful mulch. Compost can help to fertilize your lawn and garden, and mulch can be used in your planting beds to help reduce overall water use!



The chart to the left displays Fairview's average total waste per household since 2007, as well as the recycle participation rate per household (blue line) as compared to the actual recycle rate per household (green line). Overall waste saw a slight increase from 2011. The primary issue at hand, however, is the actual recycle rate per household. Though the recycle participation rate has remained relatively constant, the actual recycle rate per household is much lower and has steadily declined since 2010. Make sure that you participate in recycling programs in order to keep Fairview environmentally friendly! Moreover, keep new residents informed of said programs as they move in to our beautiful town.

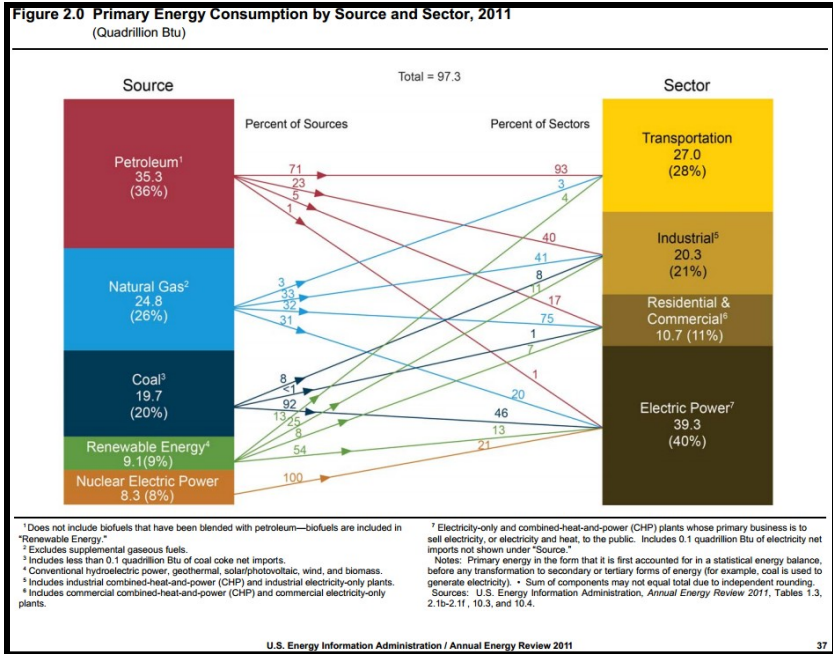
Efficient Building : Preserving the Environment and Saving You Money!

According to the United States Energy Information Administration, electric power plants whose primary business is to sell electricity and heat to the public account for 40% of our nation’s energy consumption. Other residential and commercial uses tack on another 11%, making over half of our energy consumption related to consumption habits in our homes and office buildings. Unfortunately, much of this energy is lost to construction design that could otherwise be avoided! This wastes your money and adds to the level of greenhouse gas emissions in the air.

In order to help preserve our environment and save you money, below is a list of energy efficiency tips from www.environmenttexascenter.org:

1. Turns lights and appliances off when you leave the room. It only takes a second, and those savings can really add up.
2. Scrape - rather than rinsing - dishes, and only run the dishwasher when you have a full load. This simple step can save up to 20 gallons of heated water per day.
3. Turn your hot water heater down to 120 degrees (the “low” setting).
4. Replace your old shower head with a low-flow model. This can save you up to \$145 every year by reducing water heating costs!
5. Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs to cut your lighting costs by up to 75%.
6. Plug appliances into power strips and then turn them off when not in use. This prevents electricity from flowing into appliances when it is not needed.
7. Use a laundry detergent formulated for cold water, and wash your laundry using cold water only. 90% of the energy used to wash clothes goes to heating water. Consider using a drying rack or clothesline instead of drying clothes in a dryer. If you do use a dryer, keep your lint trap clean and save over \$30 every year.
8. During the winter months, put aluminum foil behind radiators to reflect heat back into the room.
9. Keep radiators and refrigerator coils clean and free of dust. Clean or replace the filters in your furnace, water heater, and/or air conditioner.
10. For every degree you turn down your thermostat, you save 3% on your gas bill, and in the summer those savings are even greater when you turn up your thermostat and give your air conditioner a break! You can install a programmable thermostat to automatically implement these energy savings when you are not at home.

Take heed, help out the environment, and save yourself some money today!



Energy Star® Certified Pool Pumps

Summertime is just around the corner! For many Fairview residents, this means relaxing by the pool and taking in the outdoor scenery with a little aquatic temperature relief. Unfortunately, however, pools can be quite expensive.

Are you interested in significantly cutting these utility expenses and in being more eco-friendly? Consider an Energy Star-certified pool pump for your pool.

Energy Star is a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency voluntary program that helps businesses and individuals save money and protect our climate through superior energy efficiency. To earn the Energy Star certification, pool pumps must be at least 30-72% more energy efficient than typical pumps. One way that these pumps achieve this needed increase in efficiency is by providing variable speed settings, allowing the user the capability to operate the pool pump at a minimum of two different speeds.

So if you are in need of a new pool or an upgrade to your current pool, switch to an Energy Star-approved pool pump today and save yourself some money!

The most recent Energy Star-approved list of pool pumps can be found here: http://downloads.energystar.gov/bi/qplist/Pool_Pumps_Product_List.pdf?6cfe-86e3





Town of Fairview Environmental Newsletter

“Keepin’ it Country” since 1958!

Town of Fairview

372 Town Place

Fairview, TX 75069

We’re on the web!

<http://www.fairviewtexas.org>

Dark Skies Create Family Ties

As the summertime approaches, we all get excited to spend more time outside, enjoying trips to our favorite lakes and rivers with the company of our friends and family. But the fun does not have to end at swimming and summer time cook-outs!

Fairview’s 2006 Dark Skies Ordinance, which requires that lights be kept down toward the ground and not up in the sky or in invasive positions relative to eyesight, promotes both the nighttime safety of pedestrians and drivers as well as preserves the traditional aesthetic values of the town by limiting light pollution.

So after your fun-filled day in the sun, come home and enjoy Fairview’s naturally dark skies by stargazing with your friends and family. This respite helps strengthen community and can provide the necessary down time to fuel you and yours for the upcoming day!

