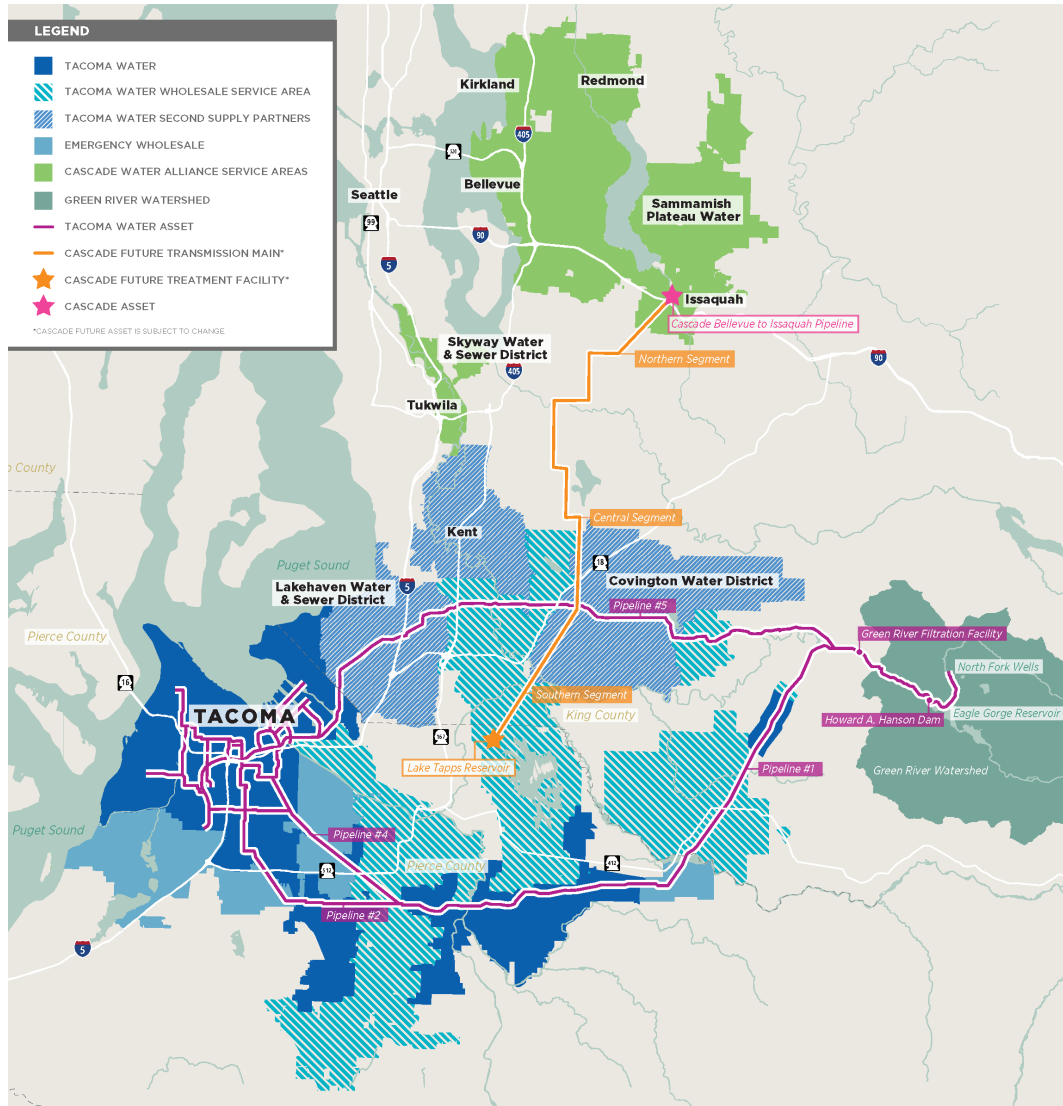


# Tacoma Water Peak Reduction Programming

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Kaela Arellano, Sustainability Analyst



# About Tacoma Water



119 square miles of service area

281 employees

108,897 residential customers

7,251 commercial and industrial customers

1,428 miles of water mains

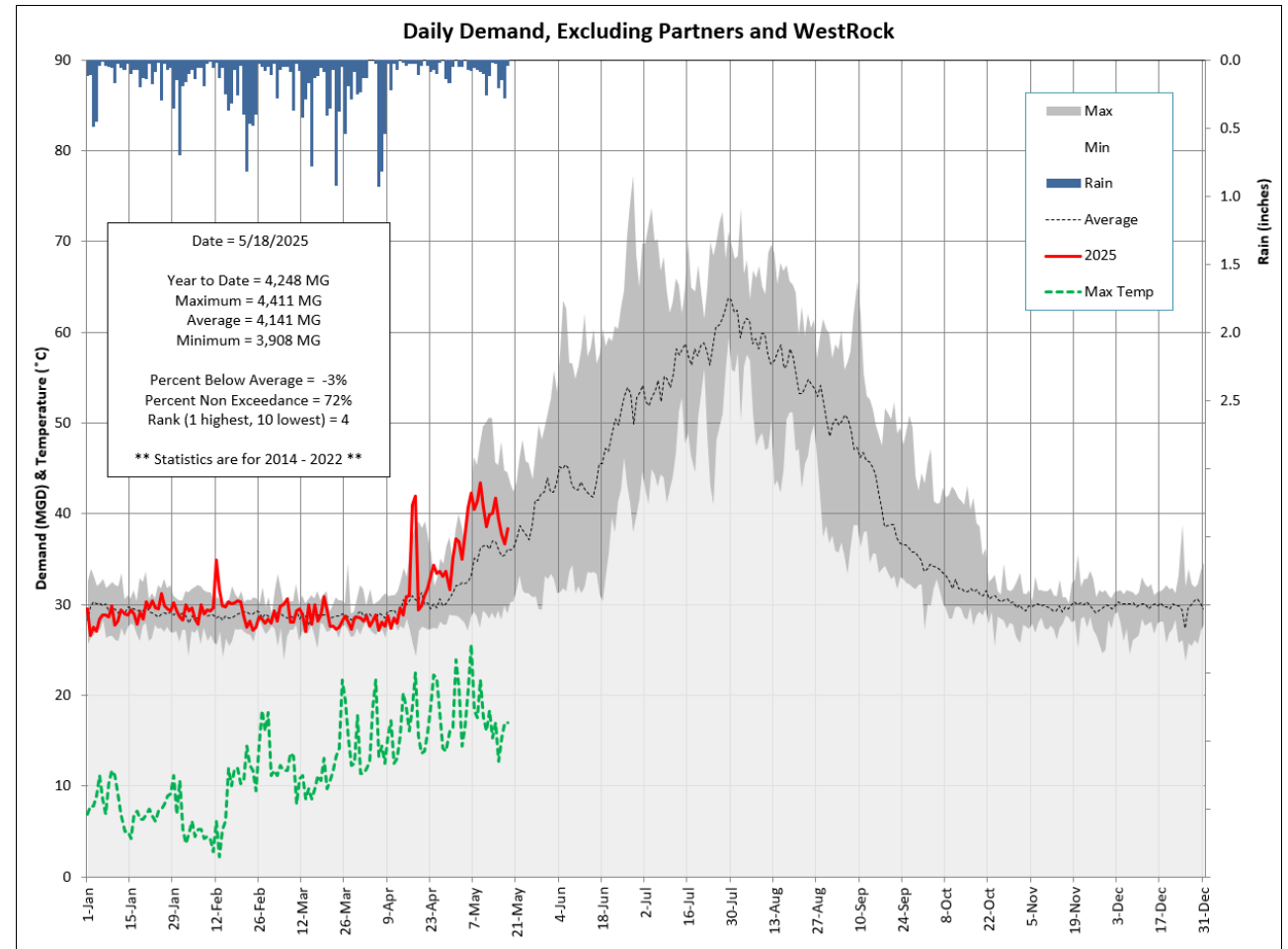
Up to 150 million gallons per day from the Green River

40 million gallons per day from local wells

# Conservation Goals

**Goal: Working to reduce peak water use by 6.65% (summertime water use)**

Tacoma Water aims to reduce average daily water use from May to October by 0.274 million gallons per day over 10 years for residential and small to medium commercial customers. The reduction will happen gradually each year, reaching a total 6.65% decrease by the end of 2027.



# Peak Reduction Programming

- Summer Water Rates
- Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate
  - Residential
  - Business
- Indoor and Outdoor Water Saving Kit
- Targeted Marketing Communications
- Aggressive Peak Shaving
  - Policies supporting low-to-no irrigation practices, rate structure modification



\*Must be used with the WR2 Rain Sensor and ESP-Me controller.



# Summer Water Rates



- A two-tiered rate structure for water charges during the summer to encourage people to conserve water during peak demand.
- In effect from June 1 through September 30
- The average household uses about 7 CCF of water per month.
- Rising temperatures often mean our community uses extra water for landscape and outdoor water needs.
- Helps ensure we have enough water for our community, fish, and other wildlife.

## Winter

- Inside City of Tacoma: \$2.769
- Outside City of Tacoma: \$3.323
- City of University Place: \$3.569

## Summer (T1)

- Inside City of Tacoma: \$2.769
- Outside City of Tacoma: \$3.323
- City of University Place: \$3.569

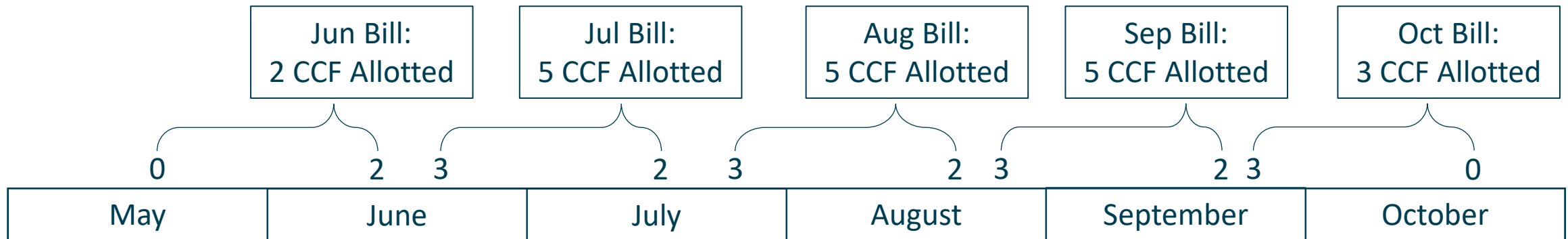
## Summer (T2)

- Inside City of Tacoma: \$3.461
- Outside City of Tacoma: \$4.154
- City of University Place: \$4.461

# Summer Water Rates (contd)



June – September = 5 CCFs Monthly @ Tier 1 Rate for Consumption,  
Additional consumption @ Tier 2 Rate



If a billing period starts in a one month and enters a new summer month, but does not contain the entirety of the new month, a prorated amount of consumption will be billed at the Tier 1 rate based on a percentage of the new month that is included in the bill period (rounded to the nearest CCF)

**All water customers are on monthly billing as of March 2025.**



# What REALLY uses the most water?



Image courtesy of aqua mech, licensed under CC BY 2.0

Depending on the region, homeowners use **30-60%** of their water outdoors.



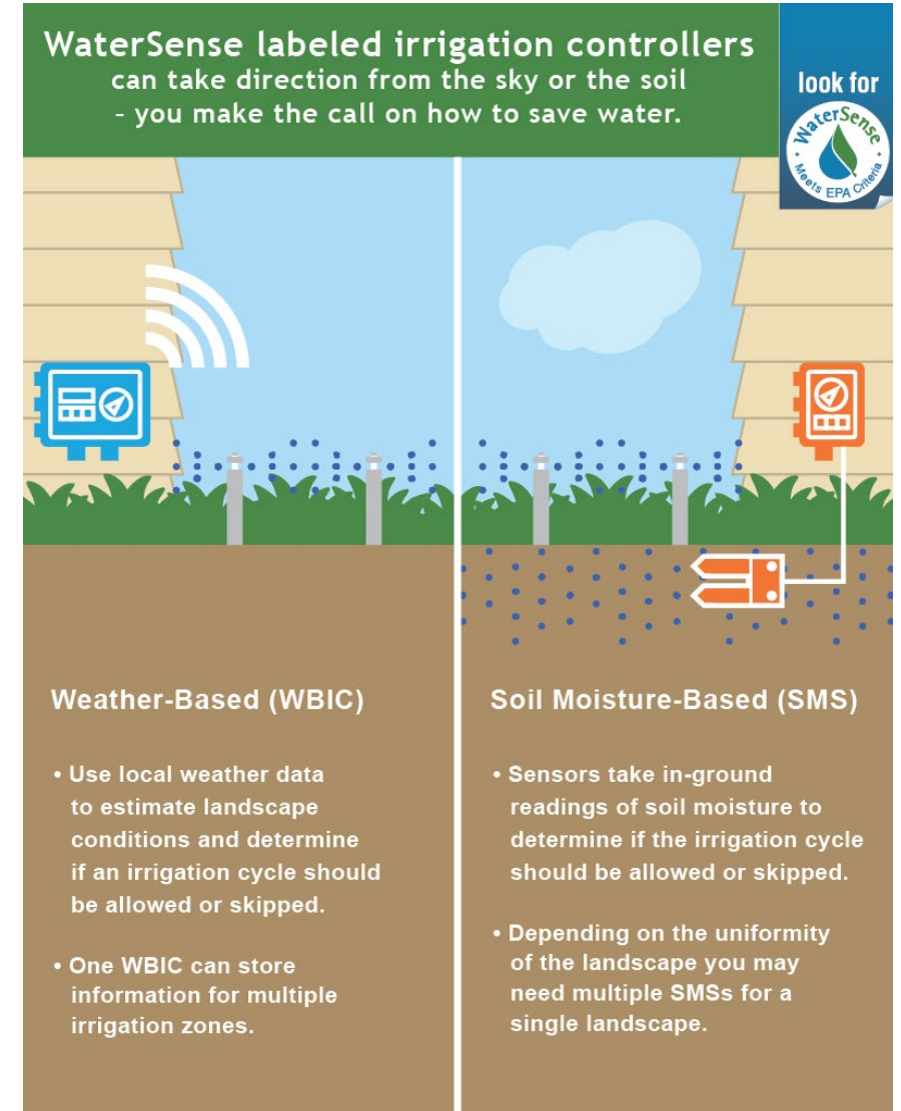
**50%** of that is wasted, in part, due to overwatering.

# Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate

Tacoma Water offers customers a rebate of 50% (up to \$100) of the purchase price of any qualifying WaterSense hose faucet timer or smart irrigation controller and/or add-on or plug-in device.

- Residential: Up to \$100
- Business: Up to \$500

[www.mytpu.org/smartirrigation](http://www.mytpu.org/smartirrigation)





# Smart Irrigation Controller Rebate



- Tacoma Water has provided rebates to 146 customers since 2023
- It continues to be a popular option for those looking for convenience, conservation and reliability
- With the installation of advanced meters, we will be able to determine if this conservation effort has made an impact to our water supply during peak months

# Impacts of AMI Data

- Advanced water meters mass deployment completed in December 2023
- Current conservation plan is in effect through EOY 2027
- Advanced meters provide near real-time data on water consumption.
- Monitor usage patterns before, during, and after implementation of conservation measures.
- Target certain zones with greater peak usage and explore new rate approaches informed by AMI data
- Currently In Phase 2 of “Conservation Program Data & Reporting Enhancements” Project
  - Will leverage AMI data to identify immediate impacts and trends of conservation programs in advance of Conservation Plan review.



# Questions?



## Contact:

Water Conservation: [conservation@tacoma.gov](mailto:conservation@tacoma.gov) (253)-502-8723

Water Service Line Grant and Loan Program:  
[WaterGrantLoan@tacoma.gov](mailto:WaterGrantLoan@tacoma.gov) (253) 502-8058

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