

Why is Salem installing secondary water meters?

Salem is working toward meeting a 2019 legislative mandate to meter all secondary water systems; to encourage the efficient use of Secondary Water which results in less strain on the current water systems; and to fairly assess for the use of the pressurized irrigation system

2019 Legislative Mandate

The Salem City Secondary Water Meter Installation Project is in response to 2019 Utah legislation that mandates all secondary water distributors (Salem City), provide the state with a plan for metering the pressurized secondary water connections by December 2019. Salem City been installing meters on new connections for approximately 3 years knowing that the discussion of metering was going on at the legislative level. Salem City is now executing that plan to install meters on all properties that do not currently have them.

Prolonging the Life of the System

As Salem's population continues to grow and more people call it home, the City's secondary water usage continues to increase. This puts increased demand on both the drinking water system and the pressurized irrigation water system. Outdoor watering accounts for approximately 60% of our total water use here in the City and drinking water has always been metered.

Once meters are installed, the city will have the ability to show on utility bills how much secondary water is being used. We can also provide the recommended average water use for each property based on size. In other areas, these efforts have shown that users are willing to self-regulate, resulting in the reduction of water consumption by nearly 30%. It is Salem City's hope that we will see similar results by providing usage data to its residents.

Water Conservation

As you all know, Utah is the second driest state in the country. We have a responsibility to be good stewards of our water resources. It is the City's hope that residents and businesses in the city will adjust their usage, improve their landscaping practices and help Salem become a water-conscience community. Metering is the only way to efficiently and fairly measure usage, assess costs, and determine the success of such measures.

If the current city-wide water usage does not decrease to a level appropriate for our population size, and our landscaping needs, Salem City will need to purchase additional water shares and make significant upgrades to the system, potentially costing residents more money. It is our hope that we can collectively conserve water to avoid these possible alternatives.

Learn more about water usage and water conservation tips in Utah, by visiting:

- <https://slowtheflow.org/>
- <http://waterwiseutah.org/>