

## **North Carolina**

Water loss is an important issue in North Carolina, where approximately 76% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), North Carolina's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 938.01 million gallons of water per day for treatment and distribution to customers. Those public water suppliers face enormous challenges when it comes to replacing and repairing their systems. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently found a 20-year capital improvement need of more than \$16.72 billion for North Carolina's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR). All municipal water utilities and all other community water systems that regularly serve 1,000 or more service connections or serve more than 3,000 people must electronically submit an annual water use update, including reporting of volumes withdrawn by the system, volumes delivered to various customer categories, and volumes used for other utility operational needs.

Water loss is also considered in State Revolving Fund (SRF) Loan applications, where priority points are awarded to utilities that document a Water Loss Reduction Program that includes water audits, comprehensive metering, and hidden leak detection.

U.S. Geological Survey's "Estimated Use of Water in the United States County-Level Data for 2015", September 28, 2017- <https://www.sciencebase.gov/catalog/item/59a96d18e4b07e1a023db323>

EPA's "Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, Sixth Report to Congress", March 2018 - [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth\\_drinking\\_water\\_infrastructure\\_needs\\_survey\\_and\\_assessment.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2018-03/documents/sixth_drinking_water_infrastructure_needs_survey_and_assessment.pdf)

NCDENR Local Water Supply Planning  
[http://www.ncwater.org/water\\_supply\\_planning/Local\\_Water\\_Supply\\_Plan/](http://www.ncwater.org/water_supply_planning/Local_Water_Supply_Plan/)

State statute reference: [G.S. 143-355\(l\)](#)

State regulations reference: [15A NCAC 2E.0604](#)

SRF scoring system: [http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document\\_library/get\\_file?uuid=644cd8b2-1e58-4842-8802-845deb1c0510&groupId=14655572](http://portal.ncdenr.org/c/document_library/get_file?uuid=644cd8b2-1e58-4842-8802-845deb1c0510&groupId=14655572)