

Georgia

Water loss is an important issue in Georgia, where approximately 85% of the population is served by public water suppliers. The US Geological Survey (USGS) estimates that in 2015 (the most recent year available), Georgia's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 1,069.91 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 \$12.46 billion for Georgia's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The State Legislature enacted the Georgia Water Stewardship Act (GWSA) of 2010 (SB 370/HB 1094) with the intention of creating a culture of water conservation and efficiency in the state of Georgia. The GWSA included a statutory requirement that all public water systems in Georgia serving more than 3,300 individuals must conduct a Water Loss Audit for each calendar year. There are 226 utilities in the state of Georgia that are subject to the annual reporting requirement. This Act also requires that all such water systems submit their audit reports to the state by March 1st of the following year. Audits must be conducted in accordance with the International Water Association/ American Water Works Association (IWA/AWWA) water audit method, using the free AWWA Water Audit Software (current version, as specified by the *Georgia Water System Audits and Water Loss Control Manual*). A Qualified Water Loss Auditor must examine each annual audit report and certify that the results meet the requirements of both the AWWA methodology and the Georgia manual.

The state agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Georgia Department of Natural Resources - Environmental Protection Division (GAEPD). GAEPD has established a program to validate the annual water audits through a 3rd party for 2011, 2012, and 2013 audits, in accordance with validation methods modeled from the AWWA Water Loss Control Committee and based in principles from the M36 Manual on Water Audits and Loss Control Programs. In July 2015, GAEPD adopted a regulation for water loss performance that requires each water supplier to develop and conduct a water loss control program and demonstrate "demonstrable progress" toward improvement of water supply efficiency over time, based on non-percentage performance metrics.

GA Water Stewardship Act: <http://www.legis.ga.gov/Legislation/en-US/display/20092010/SB/370>

Validated water loss audits filed by individual water suppliers are posted here:

<https://epd.georgia.gov/water-loss-audit-results>

Current rules for water loss reporting, water loss control programs, and improved water supply efficiency performance: <http://rules.sos.ga.gov/GAC/391-3-33>

CNT fact sheet:

http://www.cnt.org/sites/default/files/publications/CNT_GeorgiaWaterStewardship.pdf

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