

Maryland

Water loss is an important issue in Maryland, 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), Maryland's public water suppliers withdrew an average of about 749.52 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 \$9.33 billion for Maryland's water systems to continue to provide safe drinking water.

The agency with jurisdiction over water loss reporting is the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). In 2002, Maryland enacted House Bill 693, known as the Maryland Water Conservation Act. HB 693 requires certain public water systems to submit information about their water conservation best management practices when applying for new or renewed water appropriation permits. Water audits are generally required for all Maryland public drinking water systems that serve greater than 10,000 people. This requirement is frequently listed as a condition in Water Appropriation and Use Permits. Water audits required by permit condition must be conducted annually and submitted by the end of the State fiscal year for review by MDE. Additionally, any reported water loss greater than 10% triggers the requirement of the submission of a water loss reduction plan.

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

Link to Maryland HB 693 (2002) – Maryland Water Conservation Act
<http://mgaleg.maryland.gov/2002rs/bills/hb/hb0693e.PDF>

Annual (2013) summary of reporting water systems -- [Water Audits and Loss Reduction for Calendar Year 2013](#)

MDE guidance documents –

[Water Audit and Water Loss Reduction Plan Guidance \(.pdf\)](#)

[Drinking Water System Water Audit Worksheet \(in MS Excel .xls file\)](#)

[Guidance for Water Conservation Best Management Practices](#)