

## **Georgia Department of Natural Resources**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Georgia's Draft Water Conservation Implementation Plan Is Released**

A proposed plan to help Georgians use water more efficiently was released today and is available for public review and comment. The Water Conservation Implementation Plan (WCIP), developed by the Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR), will serve as a guide for Georgia business owners, farmers, homeowners, water service providers, and government officials.

“The ultimate goal of water conservation is not to discourage water use, but to maximize the benefit from each gallon used,” said EPD Director Carol A. Couch. “This plan can guide Georgians toward more efficient and sustainable water use to help ensure that our water resources can continue to support growth and prosperity while maintaining healthy natural systems.”

The Comprehensive State-wide Water Management Plan and Governor Sonny Perdue, by Executive Order, called on the DNR to develop the WCIP with assistance from other agencies and our state's diverse water users. Seven teams of volunteers were organized by major water use sector, including agricultural irrigation, industrial and commercial water use, domestic and non-industrial public use, electric generation, golf course water use, landscape irrigation and state agency water use.

The volunteer teams were asked to help generate materials and data used in the development of the draft plan, to review information and to provide feedback on elements of the plan. The volunteers represented diverse groups including business owners, public water providers, industries, environmental organizations, state agencies, local governments and chambers of commerce.

Featured elements of the WCIP include sector-specific water conservation goals, benchmarks, best practices and implementation actions - designed to reduce water waste, water loss, and, where necessary, water use.

The plan is available for review and comment at [www.GeorgiaWCIP.org](http://www.GeorgiaWCIP.org). Comments can be submitted electronically at that web site or sent by conventional mail to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division, 2 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive, Suite 1152 East Tower, Atlanta, Georgia, 30334 to the attention of Arnettia Murphy. EPD will accept public comments on the draft plan through January 31, 2009.

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