



Chicago Metropolitan
Agency for Planning

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www.cmap.illinois.gov

2008 Household Water Use Survey

Northeastern Illinois



To take this survey online instead of filling out the paper version, go to <http://www.cmap.illinois.gov/publicwatersurvey.aspx>.
Note: You will need the password that is printed on your cover letter to take the survey online.

This survey will contribute important data for a regional water supply planning process underway within the eleven counties of northeastern Illinois. CMAP, in conjunction with its planning partners, is studying water supply and demand and will produce a regional water supply plan in 2009. Please see the enclosed brochure for more information about the new state and regional water supply planning initiatives.

Section I: How does your household use water?

1. Was your home built prior to 1994?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

2. How many of each of the following fixtures are there in your home?

- Toilets _____
- Bath tubs _____
- Showers _____

3. How often is your household billed for water?

- Monthly
- Every other month
- Every six months
- Annually
- Never
- Don't know

4. Is your water billed by the gallon or cubic foot?

- Cubic foot
- Gallon
- Don't know
- No water bill

5. What is the source of your household tap water?

- Lake Michigan
- Well water
- Fox River
- Kankakee River
- Don't know

6. About how many gallons of water do you think your household uses indoors on a typical summer day?

(Please make your best guess)

7. About how many gallons of water do you think your household uses outdoors on a typical summer day?

(Please make your best guess)

8. Which of the following are currently installed in your home? (Select all that apply)

- Low-flow shower head (2.5 gallons/minute, which includes all shower heads manufactured after 1994)
- Front-loading clothes washer
- Extra-large (multi-person) tub
- Water efficient toilet (1.6 gallons/flush, which includes all toilets manufactured after 1994)
- Automatic rain shut-off valve for outdoor sprinkler system
- Multiple shower heads in one shower stall or tub
- None of the above

9. Where you live, how much social pressure would you say there is to keep your yard looking a certain way?

- Very strong social pressure
- Somewhat strong social pressure
- A little social pressure
- No social pressure

10. If you have grass, shrubs, flowers or other outdoor plants, how important is each of the following landscaping features to you?

	<i>Very Important</i>	<i>Somewhat Important</i>	<i>Not at all Important</i>
A. Appearance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Ease of care	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Water efficiency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Cost	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. A place for kids and pets to play	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Does not apply (no grass, flowers, shrubs or other outdoor plants)	<input type="checkbox"/>		

11. If you have grass, shrubs, flowers or other outdoor plants, how are they usually watered?

- Automatic sprinkler
- Manual sprinkler devices
- Water by hand with a hose
- None of the above (have grass, shrubs and/or outdoor plants, but no need to water)
- Does not apply (no grass, shrubs or outdoor plants)

12. If you have an automatic sprinkler, is there someone in your household who can change the settings if necessary?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know
- Does not apply (no automatic sprinkler system)

13. Which of the following water-use activities does at least one person in your household engage in regularly?*(Select all that apply)*

- Minimizing length of shower
- Turning off faucet when brushing teeth
- Watering outdoors less frequently
- Only running full dishwasher or clothes washer
- Fixing leaky faucets or toilets
- Using a dishpan or stopper when washing dishes by hand
- Using rain barrels for gardening
- Other, specify _____

14. Thinking about the activities listed in the previous question, and considering all household members, including children, how often does your household conserve water?

- Every chance you get
- Most of the time
- Sometimes
- Rarely
- Never

Section II: What do you think about water availability in northeastern Illinois?

1. Thinking about how much water there is in northeastern Illinois today, would you say there is...?

(If unsure, please make your best guess)

- more than enough
- enough, but not much extra
- probably not enough
- a considerable shortage

2. Thinking about how much water there will be in northeastern Illinois in 25 years, would you say there will be...?

(If unsure, please make your best guess)

- more than enough
- enough, but not much extra
- probably not enough
- a considerable shortage

3. How important do you think it is to conserve water right now in northeastern Illinois?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not very important
- Not at all important

4. How would you describe the cost of your tap water?

- Too high
- About right
- Lower than you would expect

5. Are you aware of your water bill having gone up any time in recent years?

- Yes
- No

5a. Did that prompt you to use less water?

- Yes
- No

6. For each of the following statements, please indicate your level of agreement according to the scale on the right.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
A. Water-conserving outdoor landscapes, such as those featuring native plants, look as good as traditional lawns.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Northeastern Illinois residents should do more to conserve water.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Water efficient toilets flush effectively.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Older (higher-flow) shower heads provide a better shower.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. It is important to take two full minutes to wash your hands.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Attractive outdoor landscaping requires lots of watering.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

7. Below is a list of conservation programs that some water utilities have provided for their customers.

Please indicate how willing you think you would be to participate in each of the programs.

	<i>Very Willing</i>	<i>Somewhat Willing</i>	<i>Not at all Willing</i>
A. Partial rebate toward water-efficient toilet replacements	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B. Partial rebate toward rain shut-off devices for automatic sprinklers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
C. Partial rebate toward high efficiency clothes washers	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
D. Plumbing retrofit kit give-aways	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
E. Horticulture/landscape education and design courses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
F. Home water use audits and evaluations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
G. Financial incentives for planting native grasses and other lower-water-use outdoor plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

8. Thinking about the programs listed in the previous question, have you heard of any water conservation programs being offered in your area?

- Yes
 No

8a. Did you participate?

- Yes
 No

9. If you have heard of water conservation programs being offered in your area and have not participated, why not?

(Select only your top reason)

- No interest
 It was not convenient
 Other (specify) _____
 Does not apply (never heard of any conservation programs offered in your area)

Section III: Please tell us a little about your household

1. In which county do you live?

- Boone
- Cook
- DeKalb
- DuPage
- Grundy
- Kane
- Kankakee
- Kendall
- Lake
- McHenry
- Will

2. How would you describe your household's race or ethnicity? (Select all that apply)

- Asian
- Black or African American
- Hispanic or Latino
- White/Caucasian
- Mixed race/ethnicity
- Other, Specify _____

3. Please characterize your household so that we can see how this relates to water use. Put zeros where there are no people in the category.

<i>Age category</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Total number ages 0-11	_____	_____
Total number ages 12-19	_____	_____
Total number ages 20 and older	_____	_____
Total number of persons in your household	_____	

4. What is the highest level of schooling that any adult in your household has achieved?

- Less than a high school diploma
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college but no degree
- Associate's degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Some graduate school, but no graduate degree
- Master's degree or higher

5. Which category best describes your total household income for 2007?

- Under \$25,000
- \$25,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 - \$499,999
- \$500,000 or more

6. What type of home do you live in?

- Single family home
- Duplex or townhome
- Condominium or apartment
- Mobile home
- Other, specify _____

7. Do you rent or own your home?

- Own
- Rent

Thank you for taking part in this important effort!

Please feel free to contact CMAP with questions or comments:

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