

Indiana Water Fact Sheet



Indiana has more than 35,000 miles of rivers and streams, 100,000 acres of publicly owned lakes and reservoirs, and 50 miles of Great Lakes shoreline.

These surface water resources play a crucial role in industry, agriculture, and energy production in the state. About two-thirds of Indiana's population depends on ground water for drinking and household uses. Indiana is generally considered to have adequate water resources to satisfy its domestic, industrial, and environmental water supply needs, but as it looks to the future, Indiana is focusing on using water more efficiently across the state, to address its growing population and protect this precious natural resource.



Stretched Supply

Despite having a diverse and wide array of water resources, as Indiana continues to grow, the demands of industry, agriculture, and the public are predicted to increasingly strain the state's water supply. Indiana's population is projected to rise 12 percent over the next 30 years, from 6.4 million in 2009 to 7.2 million by 2040. With competing demands on limited water resources, more and more ground and surface water sources may be used beyond their ability to replenish themselves.

Indiana has experienced single-season and multi-year periods of low rainfall that stressed the state's water delivery and management systems. Therefore, the state and many communities promote public awareness to protect this precious resource and use water more efficiently.

Conservation Efforts

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources has developed a comprehensive plan to address potential water shortages in the state by promoting water efficiency. On the household level, the plan encourages residents to follow a few

basic steps, including: installing water-efficient plumbing fixtures; finding and fixing leaks around the home; using proper irrigation and scheduling techniques; selecting the correct plant for local climate and rainfall totals; eliminating wasteful water habits; and using an automatic hose shut-off nozzle when using a hose.

At the local level, the city of Carmel and Delta Faucet, both WaterSense® partners, appeared together on “Connecting with Carmel,” a local community affairs TV program, to educate Carmel residents about EPA’s Fix a Leak Week and the benefits of installing WaterSense labeled products. If just 10 percent of household leaks were fixed in the state, it would save water and wastewater utilities nearly 9 million kilowatt hours of electricity from not having to pump and treat the water. That’s enough electricity to power 840 Indiana households for a year. And if just one out of 10 households in Indiana replaced its older, inefficient toilets with WaterSense labeled models, it would save residents 2.5 billion gallons and \$15 million in water bills annually. That’s enough water to supply more than 11 percent of Indianapolis households for a year!

For more information and water-saving tips, visit www.epa.gov/watersense.

The Fresh Coast

With its northern border on Lake Michigan, Indiana has access to the largest surface freshwater system on Earth. In total, the Great Lakes are home to 84 percent of North America’s surface fresh water and about 21 percent of the world’s supply.

To protect the Great Lakes’ freshwater resources, in 2008, Indiana joined with seven other states and two Canadian provinces to sign the Great Lakes Compact, agreeing to prohibit the removal of water from the Great Lakes or its tributaries for use outside the Great Lakes Basin. The compact also required that each state implement efficiency and conservation programs to reduce overall water use.

