



PERSONNEL UPDATES & ANNIVERSARIES

Cody Scharber, Maintenance Technician II
10/16/2013, 11 years

2023 Water Loss Reporting

July 1st is the annual deadline for the City to complete its Water Use Efficiency reporting. This report looks at how much water was produced and compares it to how much water was consumed. The difference between the two is water loss or distribution system leakage (DSL). The State requires a DSL over a three-year rolling average to be less than 10%. The City has one up'd that requirement, setting a goal of less than 5% for system performance. In 2020, we achieved that goal with a documented 4.7% DSL.

However, since then, we have been steadily moving up. In 2023, the system lost 10.5% of its water somewhere between production at the wells to metering at the customer. That was a whopping 134 million gallons. This moved our three-year rolling average to 7.9%. What accounts for water loss?

Here are a few things:

- Water line breaks and leaks
- Unmetered and unreported water use for fires, fire training, and line flushing (i.e. for construction)
- Errors in metering and infrastructure systems

How can you help reduce our water loss? Report whenever water is being used that is not being metered to Water Resources Operations. Any estimates of volumes used or lost will help reduce our

number. If you see a leak, report it. The sooner we can fix the problem, the less water is lost.

Commute Trip Reduction Incentives

In 2022 transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions made up 36% of all emissions in Thurston County, mostly from on-road gas and diesel vehicles. Reducing emissions from car tailpipes is an essential climate change-reducing strategy that we all can work on. In fact, we as employees of Tumwater can benefit from working on it together.

All regular-status, benefit-eligible employees, including those represented by bargaining units, are eligible to earn up to \$60 per month by participating in the City Commute Trip Reduction (CTR) program. The CTR policy includes walking, biking, transit, and carpooling/vanpooling to work. Your incentive ranges from \$20 to \$60 per month depending on the number of commute trips you make.

Additionally, there is also an incentive to purchase or lease new or used Plug-In Hybrid (\$360) and fully Electric Vehicles (\$720), which is paid as a lump sum up to once every three years.

To enroll, complete the [one page enrollment form](#).

Read the [full CTR policy](#) on the City website.