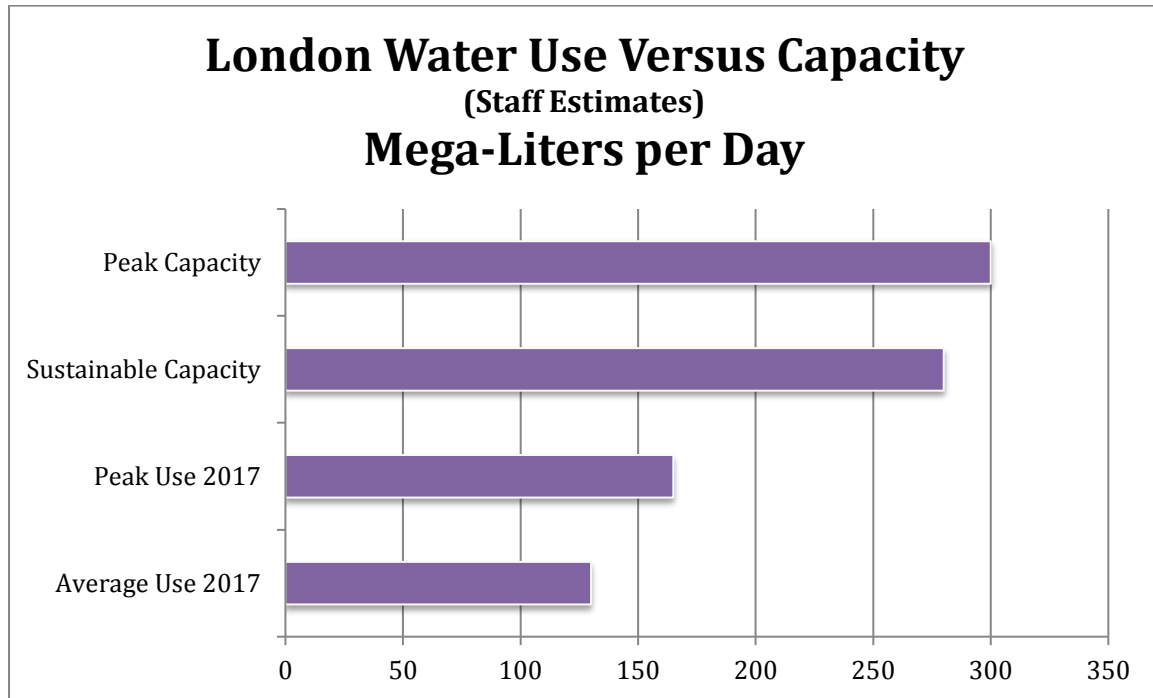


Dear Colleagues,

Previously our committee elected not to have staff create wording around lawn watering restrictions. For this reason I have prepared wording, which will essentially say, “Don’t implement the restriction until our usage rises to 80% of our capacity. “



Good policies are based on need. An airline always has life vests on hand but passengers don’t put them on unless there is a problem with the plane and they are over water. They don’t inflate them unless the plane goes down and they are about to enter the water.

We have a policy that is not based on need yet places unnecessary restrictions on our residents, which I am very much against. There are four reasons why this policy falls into the category of unnecessary:

- 1) The provincial policy regarding conservation plans is not in yet force.
- 2) The restriction strategy reduces peak demand and not consumption.
- 3) Peaks are not an issue as we are operating at less than 60% capacity.
- 4) Suspending the policy has no environmental impact since the water from both sprinklers and rain comes from the great lakes and return to them.

If we choose, our policy can easily be based on need by monitoring how closely our maximum daily usage (MDU) approaches the system capacity and taking action when a specified proportion is reached. Staff already receive a monthly report indicating daily usage. Presently our MDU and capacity are about 165 and 280

megaliters per day, which means we are operating at less than 60% of our sustainable capacity.

I suggest we add a section to the policy that says we will monitor maximum daily usage (which we already do) and implement the water restrictions when it comes within 20% of the system capacity. In this way residents are not subject to unnecessary restrictions until there is a reasonable concern over water usage.

Presently, London's goal is not to prevent increased water usage but to use our large excess capacity and dual-source security as assets to attract large water-intensive manufacturers who can sometimes draw 5 million liters per day.

Asking residents to water two hours every other day rather than one hour each day does not reduce the amount of water used. It can prevent everyone from watering on the same hot day but that no longer matters because of the system's extraordinary excess capacity.

The MOECC policy saying that municipalities need a conservation plan is not in force, which is why most municipalities do not have them. Though it calls for a plan, there is nothing in particular that must be included in it, so it becomes largely an arbitrary decision. We should not arbitrarily place restrictions on those we are charged to serve.

The last minute concern raised by staff prior to the previous meeting was that if we removed the water restriction policy, we would have to replace it with something else that might be more costly to the city. The change I propose will mean no additional costs; create a more measured policy; and free citizens from what are presently unnecessary restrictions.

I do expect resistance to what should be an obvious policy improvement since environmental platitudes like "Conservation is important." have become society's substitute for clear thinking, evoked as trump cards against other legitimate priorities. The twin spirits of eco-fanaticism and eco-hysteria not only enforce this dynamic, but have been the driving force behind numerous (well-intentioned, yet) fruitless and costly decisions. I propose this motion, also as a means of moving the pendulum of our environmental aspiration back toward clear, obtainable and real objectives.

Of course, some people may be offended by the suggestion that any environmental initiative could go too far while others may hope to make political hay by criticizing me for offending them. However, based on the facts presented I am of the sincere opinion that our policy goes to far. Returning to the metaphor of an airline, it would be like asking passengers to wear an inflated life vest for the course of the flight whether or not the plane was passing over water.

Attached to this communication is an entire city of London conservation plan but what follows is the section under question:

#### Watering restrictions – June, July, August

The City of London has regulations for water use in the months of June, July, and August.

The City by-law states that during those months, the external use of water is permitted:

- On even calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 0,2, 4, 6, 8;
- On odd calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and there are no restrictions on weekends and statutory holidays.

I propose that the section now read:

#### Monitoring use and capacity – conditional restrictions

The City of London shall monitor daily water use on a monthly basis. At such a time that peak usage exceeds 80% of peak capacity, or average usage exceeds 80% of sustainable capacity the following conservation measures will come into effect:

##### a) Watering restrictions – June, July, August

The City of London has regulations for water use in the months of June, July, and August. The City by-law states that during those months, the external use of water is permitted:

- On even calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 0,2, 4, 6, 8;
- On odd calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and there are no restrictions on weekends and statutory holidays.

In April of 2015 we removed the restrictions from weekends, relaxed the odd/even restrictions and asked staff to conduct public engagement around further options, which has not yet been done. At this point, I do not consider such public engagement to be a wise use of resources and move to abandon the initiative while making the proposed changes instead.

In conclusion, I am asking that the following motion be adopted:

That staff BE DIRECTED TO

- a) Amend the water conservation plan to make watering restrictions conditional by prepending the following clause.

##### Monitoring use and capacity - conditional restrictions

The City of London shall monitor daily water use on a monthly basis. At such a time that peak usage exceeds 80% of peak capacity, or average usage exceeds 80% of sustainable capacity the following conservation measures will come into effect: a)

- ii) Abandon the direction for the proposed public engagement given in April 2015.

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## City of London Water Conservation Plan

- Thirstmobile (mobile drinking water cart) to provide water source at outdoor events and conservation awareness
- Teaching Toolkit – program to bring municipal topics (water, wastewater, etc.) and sustainability concepts into the classroom
  - o Joint project with Thames Valley District Schoolboard
- May through August – Growing Naturally Program (previously EYE Program) underway to help homeowners learn how to reduce water and energy use by making choices better choices in the backyards 206 visits were conducted
- Continuous review and update of website – includes better links to conservation information
- <http://www.london.ca/residents/Water/Water - Conservation/Pages/default.aspx> (link to Water Conservation section on website)
- Water conservation focused displays at various events during the year, i.e. Home Show, festivals
- Regular communications through Enviroworks (bill stuffer) many seem to missing on the website  
<http://www.london.ca/residents/Environment/Pages/EnviroWorks.aspx>
- Check Your Toilet campaign – targeting residential leakage and reducing it
  
- Watering restrictions – June, July, August  
The City of London has regulations for water use in the months of June, July, and August. The City by-law states that during those months, the external use of water is permitted:
  - o On even calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 0,2, 4, 6, 8;
  - o On odd calendar dates at only those municipal addresses ending with numbers 1, 3, 5, 7, 9 and there are no restrictions on weekends and statutory holidays.
  
- Water meter replacement program to update meters, still fully metered.
- Installation of water efficient garden at Storybook garden which has been tied to the Teaching Toolkit and Growing Naturally.
- Developed new water efficient gardening video's to be launch in the spring of 2016.
- Toilet replacements at numerous Low Income Housing complexes.
- Link to Water Efficiency Report from 2015:  
<http://sire.london.ca/cache/2/2s31h245osm3el453uazouus/18120711232015105228461.PDF>