

KAMR- Amarillo

Amarillo Put Under A Voluntary Water Conservation Program

07/11/06 AMARILLO - Amarillo is just one of the cities that could be forced to use less water. It's not mandatory now, but city officials are trying to stay ahead of the game by starting a voluntary conservation program. It's called Every Drop Counts.

"Truly this brochure says it all: every drop does count. We are wanting to encourage the community to step up and be aware of water usages that they have," said Mayor Debra McCartt.

The book gives tips on what you can do to reduce the amount of water used. Mayor McCartt says "As you all know we have been in a drought situation and people have been calling in with what they can do to help conserve water."

City officials called for a voluntary conservation in 1998 due to low water pressure, and they liked the results. "Eight years ago when we asked that, people adhered to it, they did it voluntarily and we had a reduction of about 15 million gallons a day in usage," City Manager Alan Taylor remembered.

According to the city, Amarillo used an average of 44 million gallons a day last year. This year, the peak use has been 81 million gallons in one day.

With usage like that and a possible reduction in Amarillo's water allocation, the city thought changes needed to be made.

Taylor said, "If we could get another five million or seven to eight million gallons out of the public, that would be wonderful. Anticipating what CRMWA [Canadian River Municipal Water Authority] might do, we're trying to anticipate say maybe next year if they reduced our allocation then we could accommodate that reduction with our existing supply."

The city has reduced their own usage by five million gallons and hopes their new pamphlet on the issue will help everyone join the fight against drought.

You can get a pamphlet at City Hall, City libraries and the city website www.amarillo.gov, or call 378-3549 to request one.