

**DISTRICT RULE \_\_\_\_\_.**  
**BRAZOS VALLEY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION CREDIT PROGRAM**  
**EFFECTIVE \_\_\_\_\_**

The Brazos Valley Groundwater Conservation District (BVGCD) adopts this Groundwater Conservation Credit Program (GCCP) to incentivize groundwater conservation in Brazos and Robertson counties to preserve the groundwater resources for the benefit of its citizens, consistent with the authority and objectives of Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and Section 59, Article XVI, Texas Constitution.

As of the effective date, BVGCD groundwater permit holders may enroll in the BVGCD Groundwater Conservation Credit Program and sign the agreement to comply with its requirements. In addition to the benefit of conserving and preserving the aquifers for future generations, the GCCP participants will directly benefit by acquiring approved conservation credits in an account that may offset the effect of future groundwater ~~cutbacks~~ production reductions on the GCCP participants' permits.

Participation in the GCCP is currently voluntary, but only those that participate will be able to offset future groundwater cutbacks with their conservation credits. All GCCP participants agree to meter their wells with a BVGCD approved meter that is calibrated to within \_\_\_% accuracy. Participants' meters will be monitored by BVGCD staff and access to the meters must be visible and accessible. Notice will be provided pursuant to District Rule 15.1, at all times.

GCCP participants will earn conservation credits as listed in the tables below, by groundwater user types. Additional conservation methods and credits may be approved by the BVGCD Board in the future or by request. The determined conservation credits will be approved by BVGCD annually and will be inputted in the participant's conservation credit account annually.

When and if the BVGCD enters DFC Threshold Level 3, pursuant to District Rule 7.2, BVGCD will institute groundwater production ~~curtailment~~ reduction based on all actual groundwater production. Groundwater production shall be reduced based on a pro rata formula to be determined by the Board by the time the DFC Threshold Level 3 is reached. The pro rata formula will be applied to groundwater production on a different ratio, based on whether the permit is a historic or non-historic production permit. For example, historic permits curtailed by X% of production and existing non-historic permits curtailed by 2(X)% of production.

At the time of the DFC Threshold Level 3, the conservation credits in GCCP participants' accounts will offset the annual production. A limit of conservation credits that may be used each curtailment year will be adopted by the BVGCD. A cap on the percentage of total annual production that may be offset by ~~a~~ conservation credits will also be adopted by BVGCD during DFC Threshold Level 3.

Documented evidence must be provided to BVGCD of all credited conservation credits and must be open and accessible for BVGCD audits and inspections at all times.

## PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION CREDITS

### ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

Options	Conservation Credit
Aquifer Storage and Recharge	1 for 1 credit for every gallon put to Beneficial Use and charged to a Customer
Desalination	"
Direct Potable Reuse	"
Reclaimed Water Systems	"
Rainwater Harvesting	"
Other BVGCD Approved option that is evidenced to reduce an entity's groundwater usage	TBD

### BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

These Best Management Practices will reduce an entity's usage of groundwater, but cannot be directly quantified, therefore, and will get credit based on an estimated percentage reduction.

Options	Conservation Credit
<p><b>Inclined Water Rates</b> The utilities' top water rates will apply to water usage over 50,000 gal/month at most, and will be at least double the lowest rate.</p>	15% of usage in the category to which the inclined rates apply
<p><b>Commercial Irrigation Conservation Rates</b> At least 80% of businesses must have separate meters for irrigation, and that rate must be at least 10% greater than domestic usage.</p>	10% of total Commercial usage
<p><b>Top Ten Letters and Audits</b> The top 10% of residential users will get annual letters showing their usage patterns and are offered a free irrigation system audit.</p>	5% of Residential usage
<p><b>Water Loss</b> The utility's official annual water loss, as reported to TWDB, is less than 15%.</p>	<p>Percentage Points less than 15% on total usage.</p> <p>For example, Water Loss of 12% would get a 3% credit on total water usage.</p>
<p><b>Rural Public Water Supply SCADA systems</b></p>	Percentage Points less than <del>20</del> 15% on total usage <b>for rural water suppliers and 10% for municipalities</b> (based on % water loss prior to installation and after).

## INDUSTRIAL CONSERVATION CREDITS

(STEAM ELECTRIC, OIL/GAS, MANUFACTURING, GOLF COURSES)

### ALTERNATIVE SOURCES

Options	Conservation Credit
Aquifer Storage and Recharge	1 for 1 credit for every gallon put to Beneficial Use and charged to a Customer
Use of surface water	"
Use of water produced as a result of dewatering or depressurization	"
Use of recycled water (flowback/produced)	"
Use of brackish water	"
Negotiated contract for use of treated wastewater	"

### REUSE SOURCES

Options	Conservation Credit
Washing of haul trucks	1 for 1 credit for every gallon put to Beneficial Use and charged to a Customer
Water used for plant purposes (wash down, pumps, etc.)	"
Dust suppression on mining roads	"
Fly ash moistening	"
Upgrade of equipment to more water efficient technology (based upon water use before installation and after)	"

## AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION CREDITS

Agricultural conservation credits would be based upon Best Management Practices. Recognizing that each irrigation method has its own efficiencies, the following list would apply to each of the four categories of irrigation identified.

- Soil Testing
- Soil Amendments based upon soil tests
- Water Quality Testing
- Use of Evapotranspiration information to determine timing of irrigation
- Early land preparation following harvest
- Strip tilling (if applicable to the farm soil type)

Producers will declare their irrigation method(s) used. All general conservation techniques and those associated with the declared irrigation method will be considered for curtailment purposes. Credits will be accrued based upon the percentage of applicable conservation techniques used within a given crop season.

If a producer changes from a less efficient irrigation system to a more efficient one, they will get full conservation credit for the first year of the groundwater saved by changing to the more efficient irrigation method. After the first year, producers will accrue conservation credits as applied to all producers within the irrigation method used.

### FURROW IRRIGATION

Options	Conservation Credit
Land Leveling	
Tail water pit construction	
Surge irrigation	
Row length	

### PIVOT IRRIGATION

Options	Conservation Credit
MESA (Mid-Elevation Spray Application)	
LESA (Low Elevation Spray Application)	
LEPA (Low Energy Precision Application)	

### FLOOD IRRIGATION

Options	Conservation Credit
Land Leveling	
Tail water pit construction	
Laser leveling of levies/borders	

**DRIP TAPE IRRIGATION**

Options	Conservation Credit

**Use of Alternative Sources of Water**

Options	Conservation Credit
Run of River	1 for 1 credit for every gallon of surface water put to beneficial use in place of groundwater

**Agricultural Conservation Credit examples:**

**Example:**

Furrow irrigation (9 applicable conservation techniques). The producer uses every technique listed during the most current 10-year period - **No reduction**

**Example:**

Furrow irrigation (9 applicable conservation techniques). The producer uses an average of 8 listed conservation techniques (8 of 9) during the most recent 10-year period - **11% of proposed reduction based off actual production**

**Example:**

LEPA irrigation w/ strip tilling (7 applicable conservation techniques). The producer uses an average of 6.5 listed conservation techniques (6.5 of 7) during the most recent 10-year period - **7% of proposed reduction based off actual production**

**Example:**

LEPA irrigation (6 applicable conservation techniques). The producer uses an average of 3 listed conservation techniques (3 of 6) during the most recent 10-year period - **50% of proposed reduction based off actual production**