

Improving Drought Resiliency & Water Efficiency in Groton

Groton Water Department
Comprehensive Environmental

Water Resources Commission Meeting
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The Challenge: **A System Under Stress**

- Our water sources are vulnerable to climate change, population growth, and drought.
- Even with infrastructure improvements, our wells are stressed during peak demand.

The Goal

Proactively manage our water resources to ensure a reliable supply for residents and businesses, both today and in the future.

Our Approach: A Two-Pronged Strategy



1. Plan for the Future

Develop a comprehensive, local **Drought Management Plan (DMP)** to guide our actions.



2. Act in the Present

Implement immediate **Demand Reduction Activities** to stop water loss & improve efficiency.

Key Outcome #1:

The Groton Drought Management Plan

We now have a data-driven plan for managing drought

- ✓ Clear risk assessment of supply vs. demand in varying scenarios
- ✓ A quantitative “menu” of mitigation options
- ✓ Specific triggers based on well levels
- ✓ A staged response plan for clear action

Developed using unpublished guidance from DCR entitled “*Massachusetts Local Public Water Supply Drought Management Plan Guidance*”.

Key Outcome #2:

Taking Action on Water Loss

Improved Water Loss Control

- ✓ Tested critical large-diameter meters
- ✓ Replaced 4 faulty meters to ensure accurate water accounting

Enhanced Leak Detection

- ✓ Purchased new “listening ears” equipment for in-house capability
- ✓ Hired a specialized vendor for a system-wide leak survey

Results and Highlights

4

Major Leaks Found & Fixed

15.7M

Gallons Saved Annually

~\$40,000/yr

Prevented Lost Revenue



Equipped Team w/ New Tools

Next Steps

- ✓ **Keep the Plan Alive:** Update the DMP at least every five years.
- ✓ **Deploy Strategically:** Use new in-house equipment to respond faster.
- ✓ **Close the Gaps:** Pursue longer-term solutions to plan for future demands

Thank You

Questions?

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