

This year with a significant drought in our area, water conservation is a popular topic of discussion. To help improve our community's water conservation efforts, some data may help you identify ways to conserve water.

the least amount of water is consumed during the winter. The January-February-March billing cycle typically has the least amount of water used. The most water is typically consumed in the July-August-September quarter. In 2007 55% more water was consumed in the summer quarter than in the winter quarter. With higher seasonal water use customers have a good opportunity to conserve water in the summer months. Watering lawns and plants, washing vehicles, and pressure washing are significant contributors to seasonal water use.

This winter look to reduce the need for watering by landscaping your property with native plants through BayScaping. An Internet search on Bay-Scaping will provide all of the resources you need. Or go to <http://www.fws.gov/chesapeakebay/BayScapes/bsresources/bs-nativeguides.htm#Bay> for a publication on native plants. Also, look into using rain barrels or another method to capture rainwater to use for irrigation.

In the winter billing quarter La Plata customers averaged using 230 gallons per day. In the summer quarter that climbed to an average of 325 gallons per day. To calculate your average use per day, get your La Plata utility bill. In the USAGE column is the number taken from your meter. Multiply that number by 100, to get the total gallons used, and then divide it by the number of days in the billing period. For your July-August-September bill that was 92 days.

If your usage reads 299 multiply by 100 to get 29,900 gallons used over three months. Divide 29,900 by 92 days to get 325 gallons per day. If you have more than that amount, you are in the top half of water customers in town.

Thank you for your help in conserving water.