

Appendix A: Drought Actions by Sector

Although this Drought Plan is focused on the jurisdiction of the ULNRD, there are actions that other entities and individuals within the NRD region can take to mitigate the impact of drought. Below is a sample of actions that communities, water utilities, businesses, agricultural producers, and homeowners can take to mitigate drought. These lists are not meant to be comprehensive, but below each list of actions is a resource that sector can utilize to further explore drought mitigation options.

Communities

- Develop a drought response plan
- Develop a water use ordinance that restricts non-essential uses during drought emergencies such as landscaping, washing cars, swimming pools, etc.
- Encourage xeriscaping or drought tolerant landscapes
- Develop a stormwater management plan that supports an approach to collecting, treating, and reusing water.
- Utilize the capital improvement plan to invest in efficient water systems to prevent water loss
- Share drought and water reduction education materials

Mitigation Ideas – A Resource for Reducing Risk to Natural Hazards

https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/2020-06/fema-mitigation-ideas_02-13-2013.pdf

Water Utilities

- Establish staffing and drought response teams
- Estimate quantity of current water supplies
- Develop ways to reduce water use
- Identify potential supplemental water supplies
- Establish and communicate key messages to customers and stakeholders during drought
- Develop a drought response plan that includes trigger levels and water use reduction measures
- Conduct a tabletop exercise to practice scenarios such as: hauling potable water, availability of tanker trucks, hauling routes, truck disinfection, maintenance and operational procedures for introducing water into the system, identifying additional water sources or operational changes to expand water supplies, procedures for communicating with customers and large water users.
- Regularly check for leaks to minimize water losses

Drought Response and Recovery – A Basic Guide for Water Utilities
https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/2017-10/documents/drought_guide_final_508compliant_october2017.pdf

Business and Manufacturing

- Conduct a water audit to understand facility water use
- Identify best management practices to use water efficiently in restrooms, laundry, kitchens, mechanical, and laboratory equipment
- Identify potential alternative water supply sources including reclaimed, recycled, or recirculated water
- Use native or drought tolerant plants in your landscape

EPA WaterSense – Tools for Commercial and Industrial Facilities
<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/tools-ci-facilities>

Agricultural Producers

- Purchase crop insurance
- Ensure drought is accounted for in your financial plan
- Rotating crops to reduce soil erosion
- Using the correct irrigation equipment and structures to ensure water efficiently goes where needed
- Control drainage to help with too much or too little water
- Develop a grazing strategy and ensure that strategy matches your enterprise mix
- Pasture improvements such as removing undesirable shrubs or trees, oversee pastures, or plant new pastureland
- Stockpile feed
- Planting cover crops to prevent soil erosion
- Ensure adequate stockwater resources

Drought Risk on the Ranch – A Planning Guide for Great Plains Ranchers
<https://drought.unl.edu/ranchplan/Overview.aspx>

U.S. Department of Agriculture <https://www.farmers.gov/protection-recovery/drought>

Homeowners

- Install water saving devices such as low flow toilets and showerheads
- Turning off the water while you brush your teeth
- Adjust lawn sprinklers to water the lawn and not the sidewalk or street
- Running dishwasher and washing machine only when full
- Check for plumbing leaks or dripping faucets
- Install rain-capturing devices for irrigation such as a rain barrel
- Use native or drought tolerant plants in your landscape

- Use permeable driveways and surfaces to reduce runoff and promote groundwater recharge

EPA WaterSense <https://www.epa.gov/watersense>

EPA WaterSense – Landscape Design and Irrigation System Solutions

<https://www.epa.gov/watersense/watersense-labeled-homes-outdoors>

All Sectors

National Integrated Drought Information System <https://www.drought.gov/>

National Drought Mitigation Center <https://drought.unl.edu/>