

Demand Side Management Policy and Regulation: Municipalities and Water

Theresa McClenaghan
Executive Director and Counsel
Canadian Environmental Law Association
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Overview

- what is the case for water conservation in Ontario
- what progress has been made on water conservation
- what tools do Ontario municipalities have to achieve DSM
- do Ontario municipalities have all they need?

What is the case for water conservation in Ontario?

- Repeated and sustained drought events even within the Great Lakes basin
- Avoidance of over-sizing capital works
- Deferred capital works
- Decreased use and costs of energy and other inputs for pumping and treating greater volumes of water
- Inappropriate and inefficient use of potable water for all purposes
- Ability to grow (population) within existing and available water resources

Case for water conservation cont'd

- Avoidance of long-distance piping of water
- Avoidance of intra-basin transfers
- Reduction of and deferral of need for new sources of drinking water or water for industry
- Avoidance of new permits to take water and depletion of groundwater aquifers or surface water sources
- Reduction or avoidance of interference with ecosystem needs for water

What progress has been made in water conservation?

- Amendments to legislation (OWRA) to control large intra-basin transfers (no regulations yet)
- Prohibition on some large scale transfers; improvements in water taking regulations and manuals
- Clean Water Act includes water quantity threats in its evaluation and response
- Financial planning tools provided and expected
- Municipal authorities available and utilized (by-laws etc.)
- Framework for innovation (Water Opportunities Act)
- Water taking charges (commercial consumptive)
- Building code conservation committee and mandate
- Additions of meters and better financing in many locales

What tools do municipalities in Ontario have to achieve Water Demand Side Management?

- Municipalities - ability to set rates
- Drinking Water Financial Plans under the Safe Drinking Water Act
- Municipal by-law making powers which are very broad in terms of jurisdiction over subject matter (Municipal Act)
 - For example, lawn watering by-laws or Waterloo's new impervious services charge
- Low impact development / green infrastructure pilot (Credit)
- Provincial Policy Statement generally supports efficient use of infrastructure, green infrastructure, and optimizing existing infrastructure; and states that planning shall promote water conservation and efficiency

What tools do Municipalities have

- Participation in low water response framework, where applicable
- Some recognition of potential for “green infrastructure” within province’s long term capital plan
- Province adopted “WaterSense” labelling program

Do Municipalities have all the tools they need for water Demand Side Management?

- Municipal Water Sustainability Plans, once established by new regulations (not yet developed) under the Water Opportunities Act will assist further
- Building code amendments still needed
- Need to support municipal efforts with stricter water demand standards on appliances; for example the province should proceed with banning high water use toilets
- Municipal water conservation plans should be enabled under the Water Opportunities Act (and integrated with energy)
- Innovation support still needed specifically around water conservation and DM – eg water reuse; grey water; rooftops

Additional Tools Needed

- Targets and benchmarks (enabled under Water Opportunities Act)
- Billing formats (eg show benchmarks, neighbourhood averages etc.)
- Extension of “smart meter” approaches to water
- Integrated community energy and water planning (with ability to implement)
- Sectoral based CDM plans / requirements / approaches for industry and agriculture
- Completion of the commercial water takings charges program

Resources

- ICES Municipal Policy Toolkit -
<http://www.cela.ca/sites/cela.ca/files/744CUI%20MPTK%20rev12.pdf>
- H2Ontario Blueprint for a Comprehensive Water Conservation Strategy
<http://www.cela.ca/publications/h2ontario-blueprint-comprehensive-water-conservation-strategy-executive-summary>
- Ontario's Water Conservation and Efficiency Goals 2012
http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/stdprodconsume/groups/lr/@ene/@resources/documents/resource/stdprod_101247.pdf

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the homepage of the Canadian Environmental Law Association (CELA). The browser's address bar shows the URL <http://www.cela.ca/>. The page features the CELA logo, which consists of four icons: a red leaf with a white 'C', a yellow sun with a white 'e', a green house with a white 'L', and a blue water drop with a white 'a'. To the right of the logo, the text reads "Canadian Environmental Law Association" in a large, bold, brown font, with the tagline "EQUITY. JUSTICE. HEALTH." below it. A search bar and a "Subscribe to our mailing list" form are located in the top right corner. Below the logo, a navigation menu includes links for "HOME", "ABOUT CELA", "E-BULLETIN", "FRANÇAIS", "LIBRARY", and "CONTACT US". The main content area is divided into three columns. The left column lists "News", "Publications", "Our Services", "Frequently Asked Questions", "CELA in the Courts", and "Access to Environmental Justice". The middle column contains a paragraph about CELA's mission: "CELA works to protect human health and our environment by seeking justice for those harmed by pollution and by working to change policies to prevent such problems in the first place. For 40 years, CELA has used legal tools to increase environmental protection and safeguard communities. As a **Legal Aid Clinic**, our top priority is to represent low income individuals and communities and to speak out for those with less influence and who receive less of a say in decision-making." Below this is another paragraph: "Through **landmark legal cases** CELA has helped shape government and industry approaches to pollution and other environmental threats and has forced polluters to clean up their act. CELA has also been part of shaping **innovative collaborations** to improve sustainability and human health including the Low Income Energy Network, the". The right column features "CELA's Lawyer Referral List" and "News and Events", with a specific event listed for "Sep 18 2012": "Bi-national Great Lakes Citizen Coalition Calls on US Agency Not to Remove Niagara-area Hazardous Waste Site From Superfund". The browser window also shows several open tabs, including "CELA Powerpoint Te...", "Windows Screen Sho...", and "Featured Items a...". The browser's user interface includes a search bar, social media sharing options, and a user profile for "Kathleen Cooper".



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Contact information

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Canadian Environmental Law Association

130 Spadina Ave., Ste. 301
Toronto, ON M5V 2L4
Tel.: 416-960-2284

Theresa McClenaghan,
Executive Director and Counsel
theresa@cela.ca

CELA web site: www.cela.ca

Twitter: @Theresa.McClenag
@CanEnvLawAssn