

A scenic landscape featuring a bridge spanning a body of water. The water reflects the surrounding environment, including a dense forest of trees with autumn foliage. The sky is overcast with soft, warm light, suggesting either sunrise or sunset. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

WATER USE RESTRICTION BYLAW ENFORCEMENT POLICY

August 18, 2022



Background

Authorization:

At the May 2022 Town Meeting the residents of Dover voted to adopt a Water Restriction Bylaw. The Massachusetts Attorney General has reviewed and approved the new bylaw. It is now in effect.

Bylaw Purpose:

- Defines applicability of bylaw - covers all Dover residents and businesses regardless of water source (well, Aquarion, other)
- Defines who can declare a drought emergency - provides for more local control;
- Defines communication methods for drought conservation and emergencies;
- Defines “non-essential” water usage during drought conditions;
- Creates an enforcement mechanism for compliance.

Proposed Enforcement Plan

Responsible Department: Public Works

Responsibilities: Investigating complaints of violations

Issuing educational materials

Issuing violations

Coordinating with Aquarion Water Co.

Enforcement Process:

Step 1 - Submission

- Call Dover DPW @ 508-785-0058, or
- Email doverwater@doverma.gov, or
- Submit complaint via doverma.gov

Step 2 - Investigation

- Dover DPW investigates
- Coordinates with Aquarion Water co. for Aquarion customers

Step 3 - Communication

Confirmed violations will receive educational materials for first two instances, after which, fine schedule will take effect:

- 1st - Written Warning
- 2nd - \$50
- 3rd & Subsequent - \$200

Communicating Bylaw

Dedicated webpage will list:

- Bylaw text
- Drought resources
- Online form for violation submissions

Water Restriction Bylaw

At the May 2022 Town Meeting the residents of Dover voted to adopt a Water Restriction Bylaw. The Massachusetts Attorney General has reviewed and approved the new bylaw. It is now in effect. **This covers all water sources in the Town including: Aquarian, Dover Municipal Water, and private wells.**

Bylaw Purpose:

- Defines applicability of bylaw - covers all Dover residents and businesses regardless of water source (well, Aquarian, other)
- Defines who can declare a drought emergency - provides for more local control;
- Defines communication methods for drought conservation and emergencies;
- Defines "non-essential" water usage during drought conditions;
- Creates an enforcement mechanism for compliance

Water Restriction Bylaw Enforcement Policy Purpose:

On August 18, 2022, the Board of Selectmen approved the Water Restriction Bylaw Enforcement Policy ([link](#)), which ensures that the citizens of Dover are aware of the newly created Water Use Restrictions and assist in the reduction of water consumption during states of water conservation, drought, or water emergency. While this policy focuses on education first to further the goals of water use reductions, the restrictions can be enforced through the enforcement section of the bylaw. Read the [full policy here](#): Water Restriction Bylaw Enforcement Policy ([link](#))

- File a complaint
- Education Resources
- Aquarian Water

Next Steps

Ordering new signs to align with bylaw

