

POTABLE WATER REUSE

FLORIDA WATER ENVIRONMENT ASSOCIATION UTILITY COUNCIL (FWEAUC)

Our drinking water is consistently supplied by Florida's surface waters and groundwaters. The demand for these two water sources continues to grow, impacting their natural ecology. Every day, nearly 1,000 people move to the state of Florida, putting an increased strain on the supply of the state's most precious resource: **drinking water**.

Each day, about **1.5B** gallons of wastewater

travels through sewers and pipelines


to one of Florida's **~2,100** wastewater treatment plants




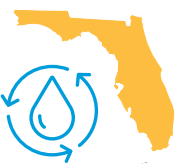
From there, **900M** gallons of "reclaimed water"

are created for use each day in safe, non-drinking applications such as:

- Residential irrigation
- Power plant cooling
- Restoring wetlands
- Aesthetic fountains
- Recharging drinking water aquifers
- And more

 While Florida is a national leader in the use of reclaimed water, much of the state's drinking water still ends up being used for irrigation, which puts an added burden on our available water supply.

 With technological advancements, there are now several innovative ways to purify a portion of the 1.5 billion gallons of wastewater that goes through treatment facilities every day. This is an opportunity for utilities to get the most value out of our reclaimed water and provide a new source for the production of safe drinking water.



RECYCLING OUR MOST PRECIOUS RESOURCE

Reclaimed water has emerged as a viable alternative water supply resource, and in many places, reclaimed water will help ensure the sustainability of Florida's environmental ecosystem while supplying the community's drinking water needs.

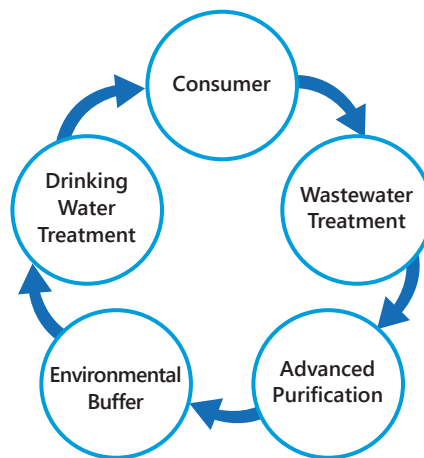
WHAT IS POTABLE WATER?



The water that we use to drink and prepare food is called potable water. Potable water has been treated to meet and/or exceed state and federal standards for safety. Potable water is treated extensively to remove microorganisms, bacteria, toxic chemicals, viruses, and fecal matter. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection estimates Floridians consume about 6.4 billion gallons of potable water every day from fresh and salty water sources with varying levels of treatment that include underground aquifers, lakes, rivers, and, in some places, even the Gulf of Mexico via Tampa Bay.

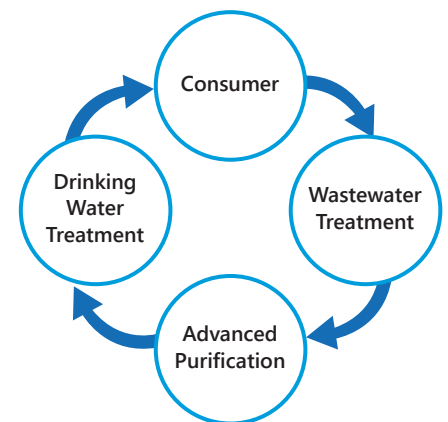
WHAT IS POTABLE REUSE?

There are two types of potable water reuse processes that can take reclaimed water and make it safe for consumption:



Indirect Potable Reuse

Uses an environmental buffer, such as a lake, river, or a groundwater aquifer to help "filter" the water before it is treated at a drinking water treatment plant.



Direct Potable Reuse

Involves the treatment and distribution of water without an environmental buffer.



INVESTMENT INTO THE FUTURE

Potable reuse provides a **safe** and **sustainable** drinking water source and also **reduces environmental stressors** that have negative impacts on our natural ecology.






The process of sending reclaimed water to a treatment facility for advanced purification is expensive, but it can be far less costly than wasting the water, pumping it in from afar when it becomes scarce, and impacting groundwater and aquifer levels. If water is not recycled and ultimately becomes scarce, utility rates may increase as the utility's cost to supply water will increase.



WHAT CUSTOMERS SHOULD KNOW

Every year, water utilities are required to perform thousands of tests to ensure drinking water is safe and of the highest quality. Through innovative solutions to recycle water, utilities across Florida are able to thoroughly and efficiently treat water, ensuring it is safe and clean to drink. These solutions allow utilities to keep rates for consumers down in the long run and ensure our most precious resource is conserved for generations to come.

POTABLE REUSE CUSTOMER BENEFITS:

-  **Affordability**
-  **Sustainable Impacts**
-  **Safe Water Source**



Utilities/cities/counties listed below have begun testing treatment methods for potable reuse applications in their communities:

- ◆ JEA
- ◆ Hillsborough County
- ◆ City of Clearwater
- ◆ City of Tampa
- ◆ City of Plant City
- ◆ City of Altamonte Springs
- ◆ Palm Beach County
- ◆ City of Daytona Beach

Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) is currently modernizing their current indirect potable reuse regulations and developing new direct potable reuse regulations to establish common and reliable treatment requirements that all utilities can follow.

LEARN MORE:

Contact your local utility or member of the FWEAUC.