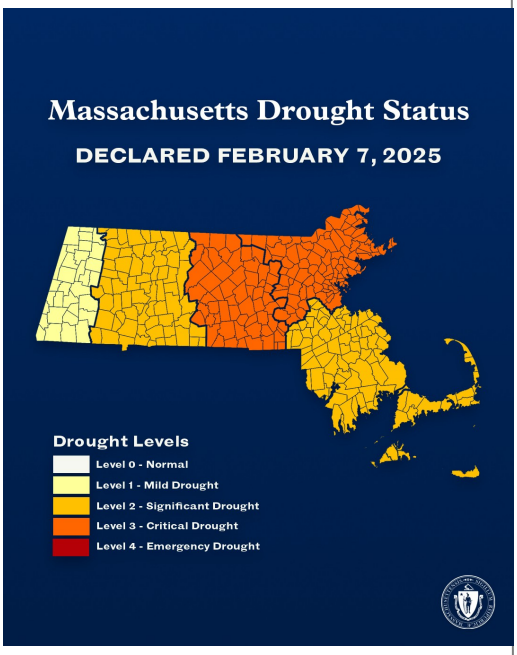
MASSACHUSETTS DROUGHT ALERT

February 14, 2025

LEVEL 1 Mild Drought | **LEVEL 2** Significant Drought | **LEVEL 3** Critical Drought | **LEVEL 4** Emergency Drought

DROUGHT STATUS:

Massachusetts in still in a Drought and in fact conditions have worsened since the beginning of the year! Following several weeks of below normal precipitation on top of nearly six-months of drought, Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs declared that drought conditions have worsened—Central and Northeast Regions are now at **Level 3—Critical Drought,** the Connecticut River Valley, Southeast, Cape Cod and Islands Regions are now at **Level 2 – Significant Drought** and the Western Region is at **Level 1 – Mild Drought**.



CURRENT CONDITIONS:

In January, most of the state received 1-2 inches of rain and snow which was 1-3 inches departure from normal. But despite this precipitation, streamflow and groundwater have worsened in nearly all regions, and recharge that typically occurs at this time of the year to groundwater and reservoirs is lagging. It is imperative that we continue to practice indoor water conservation to ensure that our drinking water supplies are sustained, and to fully recover from and reduce drought impacts.

Share your drought impacts with us!
www.mass.gov/wir

Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs: **Rebecca L. Tepper**

Director of MEMA: **Dawn Brantley**

For Information on **Water Conservation** click here!

Private Well owners click here!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Residents, Facilities & Businesses (including private wells users)

- Minimize overall water use
- Efficiently use water ***indoors***:
  - take shorter showers with timer
  - avoid water running while brushing/shaving, etc.
  - Run dishwashers & washing machines at full capacity
- Follow local water restrictions
- Fix indoor leaks (i.e., toilets, faucets, showers) which result in more than 60% indoor water use
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities

Communities/Municipalities

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication using outreach materials
- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to local residents and businesses
- Check emergency inter-connections with other water suppliers
- Implement drought surcharge or seasonal water rates
- Establish water use reduction targets for all water users
- Conduct targeted outreach to identified top water users
- Establish a leak detection program
- Develop or refine local drought management plan using guidance in the state Drought Management Plan
- Limit or prohibit washing of hard surfaces, vehicles, boats

Learn more at www.mass.gov/drought