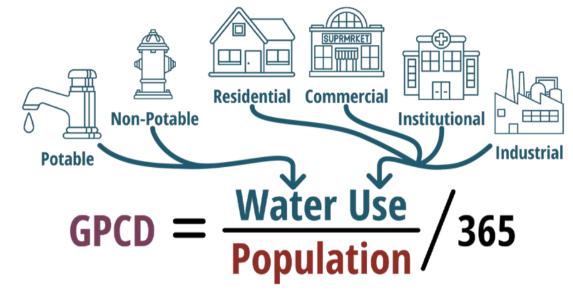# Calculating Water Use

The Utah Division of Water Resources uses one GPCD method to calculate **all** water delivered to **all** customers in Utah.

This method lets us account for all of the water currently delivered so that we can make robust plans for the future.

$$\text{GPCD} = \frac{\text{Water Use}}{\text{Population}} \Big/ 365$$

Other entities may calculate GPCD differently, depending on their needs.

A city with many summer homes might calculate GPCD by adding seasonal occupants to its population

$$\text{GPCD} = \frac{\text{Water Use}}{\text{Population} + \text{Seasonal}} \Big/ 365$$

A county studying how much water is consumed by its population might exclude water returned to the watershed from its GPCD calculation.

$$\text{GPCD} = \frac{\text{Water Use} - \text{Water Returned}}{\text{Population}} \Big/ 365$$

A water provider treating drinking water might only consider potable water when calculating GPCD.

$$\text{GPCD} = \frac{\text{Potable Water Use}}{\text{Population}} \Big/ 365$$

Because GPCD can be calculated many ways, **you cannot compare numbers** from different sources. So if you hear that Utah uses more water than other cities or states: **check the math!**