

RWA Water Supply Key to Regional Economic Growth and Stability

The South Central Connecticut Regional Water Authority (RWA) has been proudly serving southern Connecticut since 1849. We've grown over the years just as the region has flourished. But, as the local water utility and environmental services company for Greater New Haven, our growth is dependent on creating a strong and prosperous region.

To support that growth, water is needed. It is the life force behind any community. Its life-sustaining properties can determine the vitality of a region – impacting everything from the economy to fire protection to public health and quality of life.

Making an Impact With Water

While many parts of Connecticut and the country face declining water levels and struggle to meet the demand for water use due to drought and climate change, areas surrounding major urban hubs of the state, such as New Haven, continue to maintain access to an abundant supply of reliable, high-quality water.

Since 2000, the RWA has faced an ongoing decline in water demand of about 1.2% per year due to conservation, businesses leaving the area, and plumbing regulations that mandated low-flow appliances and toilets. In 2000, RWA water consumption averaged about 56 million gallons per day. At the end of 2022, RWA consumption was about 43 million gallons per day – leaving us with an excess of water.

We are enormously water rich with a reserve of several million gallons a day above any state requirements for a surplus, which makes us very fortunate considering the persistent drought conditions across Connecticut.

The approved Connecticut State Water Plan and the lessons learned from previous droughts dating back to the 1960s, illustrate that although the state as a whole is considered to have a rich water supply, water is not always plentiful where and when it is needed. However, there are areas of Connecticut, like in Greater New Haven, that have the water supply storage and infrastructure necessary to withstand droughts and meet environmental obligations.

All local communities within Greater New Haven draw from the RWA's 10 reservoirs, three aquifers, seven wellfields and our four state-of-the-art water treatment plants, which provide, on average, 42 million gallons of water a day to some 116,000 homes and businesses, or about 430,000 consumers.

Many industries with deep roots in Connecticut rely on our water: advanced manufacturing, pharmaceuticals, machine tools, electronics, food processing and breweries, distilleries and other food and beverage producers.



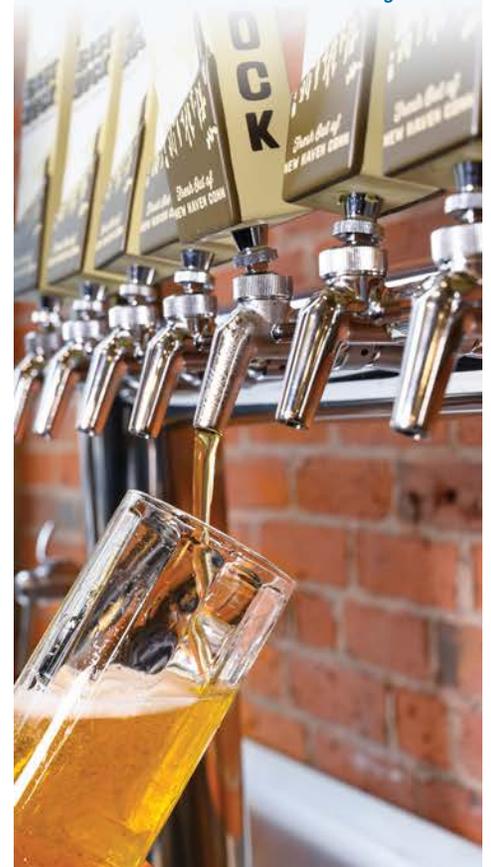
You Can't Make Beer Without Water

A recent report by the National Beer Wholesalers Association and the Beer Institute found that Connecticut's beer brewing industry contributes \$3.1 billion annually to the state's economy. These breweries, like many other businesses, cannot function without reliable access to a high-quality water supply.

East Rock Brewing Company made the choice to invest in New Haven because of the clean and reliable water provided by the RWA. Other local brands such as Modern Apizza and Chabaso Bakery also have long-established operations in New Haven. They know that access to a constant supply of water is key to their future as other regions around the nation battle droughts and water shortages.



East Rock Brewing



How Can We Help You?

The RWA has a strong history of managing and valuing water resources, and an abundant water supply. If you're looking for reliable, high-quality water, this would be a great place to relocate to. Our abundant source of water provides a unique opportunity for businesses to capitalize on Connecticut's most affordable natural resource.

In partnership with the Greater New Haven Chamber of Commerce (GNHCC) who is a strong regional partner in the promotion of our region's water supply, the RWA stands ready to assist existing businesses and manufacturers grow and thrive, and attract and recruit new water-intensive enterprises to southern Connecticut.

Together, we believe the Greater New Haven region is a keystone to building a more vibrant, successful and prosperous Connecticut.

To get started, contact:

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GNHCC Vice President, Economic Development and Workforce Initiatives

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▶ **Call:** 203-782-4305 (direct) / 203-913-2369 (cell)

▶ **Write:** abenowitz@gnhcc.com

▶ **Visit:** gnhcc.com

RWA and Economic Growth

To further water as an asset and driver of economic growth for our region and the state, we offer an economic development rate as an incentive to encourage new* commercial and industrial customers in our service area that are significantly expanding operations.

We also assist distressed businesses contemplating closing by assessing the customer at 80 percent of applicable water rates for the first five years of occupancy. Rates are subject to periodic effects of a general rate increase and/or surcharge. If the customer's period of occupancy is less than five years, we will prorate the full rate back to the first date of occupancy. After the initial five-year period, we will assess the customer its full applicable water rates.

To qualify for this economic development rate, customers must use at least 500,000 gallons of water a year.

Learn more at rwater.com.

*A new customer is defined as relocating to the RWA's service area from out of state or from another service area within Connecticut.

