

(PUBLIC NOTICE December 6, 2023):

The Town of Round Hill will post a press release on December 8, 2023 - presenting the outcome of the first 30 days of Mandatory Conservation Phase One and any updates from the Town Council. Staff is currently reviewing the mid-billing period customer meter reads and Town well meter reads to determine how much water the system conserved as a whole in November.

In the interim, below is the latest press release from DEQ - announcing a Drought Advisory Update stating that despite recent rains, drought advisories now cover majority of the Commonwealth.

(DEQ PRESS RELEASE as of November 27, 2023)

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Drought Advisory: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), in coordination with the Virginia Drought Monitoring Task Force, has expanded a drought watch advisory to include 55 counties, an expansion of 42 counties from the previous advisory. 7 counties remain under a drought warning advisory. All regions except for southwest Virginia, the Middle Peninsula, and Tidewater are affected. While recent rain has helped alleviate dry conditions for the short term, it has not been sufficient to overcome the deficits observed in soil moisture, streamflow, and groundwater levels.

A drought watch advisory remains in effect for the following areas:

Eastern Shore: Accomack and Northampton Counties Northern Virginia: Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Arlington, and Fairfax counties, York-James: Hampton, Newport News, James City, York, Charles City, and New Kent counties

Several factors have contributed to the current drought watch and warning advisories in the affected regions. Stream flows across Virginia are below the 25th percentile of normal values and less than the 5th percentile in the Shenandoah, Northern Piedmont, and Northern Virginia regions. Groundwater levels are currently below the 10th percentile in Northern Virginia, Shenandoah, and Roanoke River, and below the 25th percentile in the Eastern Shore, Big Sandy, Middle James, Northern Piedmont, and York-James regions.

DEQ is working with local governments, public water works, and water users in the affected areas to ensure that conservation and drought response plans and ordinances are followed. All Virginians are encouraged to protect water supplies by minimizing water use, monitor drought conditions, and detect and repair leaks.

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<https://www.deq.virginia.gov/.../water-quantity/drought>