

DU Students Are Ignoring the Denver Basin Aquifer

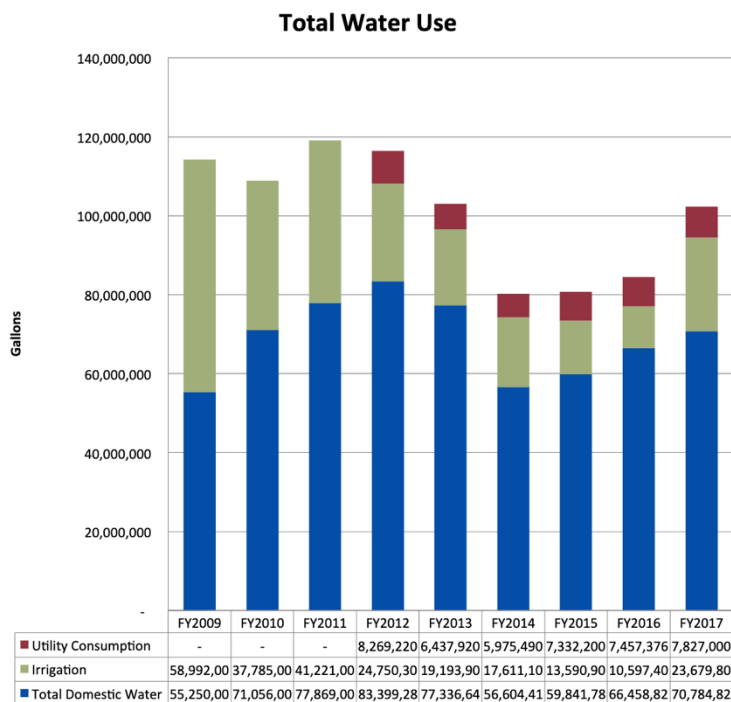
By Callie Miller

During the last few weeks' crazy snowstorms verging on blizzards, Colorado was in a stupor of shoveling every hour and driving about 5 miles per hour just to get around the block. For the few days that we got to lounge in the abnormally hot sunshine, we heard our gutters and drainpipes working to move all that precipitation from our roofs, glad to know that our dry, desert-state was getting the water it needed, right?

Well, actually no. Our state, or more closely to home, our great city of Denver, is—and has been—running out of water.

After seeing DU's newest [2019 Sustainability Report](#), I feel great about what our school is doing to prolong our time here on mother earth—if not save her—but one thing stood out that I didn't understand: where's the information about our water usage?

In 2018 our Sustainability Report showed incredible improvement in our irrigation water usage, but what was truly concerning is [our domestic water usage](#). Domestic water use is exactly what it sounds like: all “household” ways in which we use our water here at DU like for drinking, washing our clothes and dishes, brushing our teeth, showering, flushing our toilets, making food, and similar actions. According to DU's 2018 Sustainability Report, 69% of the water we used was domestic and it didn't look to be getting any better!



9News gives a great [list](#) of ways to conserve water including shutting off the faucet while brushing your teeth and doing full loads of laundry rather than just small ones. New and improved lists of ways to be a better water consumer in Denver are posted regularly, so check out what might be best for your circumstance. Whether you're on-campus in dorms or if you're off-campus in a place of your own, there are always ways to improve our domestic water statistic.

So yes, the recent snowfall did help recharge the Denver Basin Aquifer, but already DU's runoff alone has most likely been used up again. Don't use more water than you can give back to the earth, that's just selfish.