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## Water conservation efforts get boost in West Kelowna

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New leak-detection equipment has been purchased in an effort to improve West Kelowna's water conservation efforts.

Mayor Doug Findlater said the equipment purchase was a key recommendation in the District of West Kelowna's water conservation plan, which council adopted in January 2013.

"Approximately 21 per cent of all West Kelowna's water consumption goes unaccounted for each year," said Findlater. "The detection equipment should halve the amount of water loss as leaks are identified and repaired over the next few years."

The equipment was purchased in September at a cost of \$38,000. Findlater thanked the Okanagan Basin Water Board for contributing \$25,000 through the Water Conservation and Quality Improvement Program toward the purchase of the equipment.

"The Okanagan Basin Water Board is a small but dedicated group of professionals who are making large leaps forward in improving the Okanagan's mindset when it comes to water uses and how important it is to conserve such a precious resource," he said.

West Kelowna has five water systems that serve 11,000 customers and provide irrigation for 650 hectares of agricultural land. The systems draw 14,250 mega litres of water from Okanagan Lake and the Powers and Lambly watersheds. A 10 per cent reduction in the number of leaks in the system would conserve 1,425 mega litres of water annually, or enough water to supply another 1,000 homes each year.

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