



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

September 3, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT:

Gabe Margasak

South Florida Water Management District

Office/Cell: (561) 682-2292

www.sfwmd.gov/news

follow us on 

Neuroscience Institute Is Mindful of Water Conservation *SFWMD administers Water Star Program in South Florida*



West Palm Beach, FL — Using practices and hardware that conserve water at its Jupiter headquarters, the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience has earned a Florida Water StarSM retrofit certification from the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD).

“Max Planck is commended for advancing water conservation in South Florida,” said Terrie Bates, SFWMD Director of Water Resources. “Facilities that retrofit infrastructure to save water provide lasting benefits to our water resources.”

Florida Water Star is a statewide certification program to encourage water savings in homes and commercial buildings. Certification is achieved by implementing water-efficient appliances, plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and landscapes.

The program was initiated for the South Florida region in 2010. SFWMD staff assists with training and works with certifiers to confirm that the water-saving criteria are met. Statewide, approximately 20 commercial facilities, 10 communities and 1,600 homes are now Water Star certified.

To earn the certification under the program’s new criteria for existing buildings, the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience implemented water-saving features in four categories:

- Landscape and irrigation
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC)

- Indoor such as water-saving faucets, toilets and showerheads
- Process water use such as the amount used to make a product

A trained certifier verified the work was completed at the 100,000-square-foot research facility located on 6 acres at Florida Atlantic University (FAU), a collaboration between neuroscientists from MPFI, Scripps Florida and FAU.



From left: Lawrence Clark, Sustainable Performance Solutions; Robert Wanvestraut, SFWMD; and David Hader, Corey Pine, Michael Mitchell and Dr. Matthias Haury, MPFI.

“While the Max Planck Florida Institute for Neuroscience is known for its cutting edge brain research, its commitment to leaving a lasting legacy is reinforced through the Institute’s state-of-the-art facility,” said Dr. Matthias Haury, MPFI’s Chief Operating Officer. “Our scientists are focused on creating a better and brighter tomorrow, and they are leaving their mark – not only in our labs but also through the Institute’s conservation and sustainability efforts. We are proud to have received the Florida Water StarSM certification, and we thank the South Florida Water Management District for their recognition of our efforts to improve Florida’s future.”

Through its Water Star program, the District has achieved several conservation-related milestones, including:

- The first commercial Water Star building in South Florida: a new fire station in Martin County.
- The first certified home in a planned 3,000-home development built by Lennar Home Builders in Orange County. When complete, Champions Gate West will be the largest group of homes to be certified as Water Star in Florida.

For More Information:

- Tips on how to save water are available at www.savewaterfl.com.
- For a calendar of workshops for industry professionals on designing, building and certifying Florida Water Star projects, [click here](#).

#

About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.