



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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SFWMD Recognizes April as Water Conservation Month *Saving water is essential to protect South Florida's water resources*



Click on the image to see tips on how to conserve water.

West Palm Beach, FL – Highlighting a commitment to protect South Florida's water resources, the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board has joined the Governor and Cabinet in designating April as Water Conservation Month.

“Even during the wet times, we should all keep in mind that South Florida's weather can quickly change from deluge to drought,” said SFWMD Governing Board Vice Chairman Kevin Powers. “That's why it is so important for Florida families to maintain a water conservation ethic year round, and why saving water is an integral part of managing South Florida's water resources.”

For 18 years, Florida has recognized Water Conservation Month in April. The District's Comprehensive Water Conservation Plan includes voluntary and incentive-based initiatives, regulatory work, education and outreach. The amount of water used by the region's 8.1 million residents has fallen from near 180 gallons of water per person per day in 2000 to about 140 gallons in 2014.

SFWMD continues to lead by example by:

- Working with the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Services to certify nine District facilities as having Florida-Friendly Landscaping
- Implementing indoor and outdoor water audits at all District facilities
- Creating and helping organizations complete the Self-Assessment Guide for Commercial and Institutional Water Efficiency Improvement
- Hosting a yearly Water Conservation EXPO and Vendor Fair

Along with these successful efforts, the District supports many water-saving initiatives. Through the Water Savings Incentive Program, the District invested \$250,000 in nine local projects last year that saved an estimated 86 million gallons of water per year. This program has helped local communities save water for more than a decade, investing \$5.1 million in 181 projects that save nearly 3 billion gallons of water per year.

Education programs, including the Great Water Odyssey, have reached more than 2,700 students and 49,000 visitors to the District's www.savewaterfl.com website.

The District also administers the Florida Water Star program, increasing water efficiency for homes, commercial properties and communities. More than 900 single-family homes and four commercial properties have met the program's water-saving goals.

With the voluntary WaterCHAMP program, 98 hotels in 13 municipalities have installed water conservation devices or made changes in linen service covering nearly 8,000 rooms. The water savings can average 20 gallons per night per occupied room.

SFWMD also follows Year-Round Water Conservation Measures that target outdoor irrigation, which can account for up to half of the residential water use in South Florida.

Basic water conservation practices include:

- Replacing aerators in kitchen and bathroom sinks with models rated for 1.5 gallons per minute or less
- Watering the lawn based on its actual needs and following the District's year-round landscape irrigation water conservation measures and/or local ordinances
- Installing low-flow appliances, such as a dishwasher
- Installing low-flow water fixtures, such as showerheads

For more information:

- [SFWMD Weather/Rainfall Data](#)
- [U.S. Drought Monitor](#)
- [SFWMD Water Conservation](#)
- [Year-Round Landscape Irrigation Conservation Measures](#)

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The South Florida Water Management District is a regional governmental agency that manages water resources in the southern part of the state. It is the oldest and largest of the state's

five water management districts. Our mission is to protect South Florida's water resources by balancing and improving flood control, water supply, water quality and natural systems.