



DROUGHT WATCH NEWSLETTER

WATER CONSERVATION TRACKER

DOWN 35.4%



September 2015-September 2013

October 2015

City Council:

- Mayor:
Greg Watkins
- Vice-Mayor:
Lori Chapman-Sifers
- Councilmember:
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As you can see in the chart below, the residents of Shasta Lake have done an outstanding job conserving water. The City would like to thank you all for your efforts in helping us meet our State mandated conservation goal of 28%. Our work is not done, please continue to conserve as this mandate is in effect through February 2016. Thank you!

The monthly numbers are in million gallons:

Year	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
2015	35.8	29.6	35.9	39.1	50.36	58.3	64.1	62.0	53.4
2013	64.3	57.5	53.7	58.0	102.26	93.7	103.1	97.1	82.7
Reduction in water use	44.3%	48.5%	33.2%	32.6%	49.4%	37.8%	37.9%	36.2%	35.4

State of California offers Turf Replacement Rebate

The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a rebate program for removing turf and replacing it with landscapes that require little water. The program is for single-family residences to support the State's drought response. For more information on the program's history, visit the DWR turf site at www.water.ca.gov/turf/. The program is first come first serve, and customers are requested to not start their projects until approved by DWR.

The \$24 million program budget is expected to support the conversion of more than 10 million square feet of turf, or approximately 20 percent of the statewide goal of 50 million square feet of turf. Up to \$2 per square foot of removed and replaced turf will be rebated per eligible household. The total rebated amount, including any rebates the homeowner has already applied for from another agency, may not exceed a total of \$2 per square foot.

Free Water Audits and Landscape Surveys!

The City of Shasta Lake is offering a limited number of **free** Water Audits and Landscape Surveys. Please call 530-275-7400 or visit our website at:

www.cityofshastalake.org for more information.



you to conserve water..... for free! While we are there, we can complete a landscape survey and offer advice on how to apply your outdoor water use more efficiently.



What is a Water

Audit?: With your permission we will gladly come to your home and determine the most efficient way for

With the limited number of watering days and time restrictions, your landscape will need every drop.

TIPS FOR REDUCING LANDSCAPE WATER USE

Water is a precious natural resource; however, most home landscapes are notorious water users. According to the United States Environmental Protection Agency, 30 percent of the nation's water usage is dedicated to outdoor use, jumping to as much as 70 percent in dry areas of the country. Practicing water conservation doesn't mean living with a dull, lifeless landscape, as water-wise landscaping provides many opportunities for attractive and interesting environments filled with variety, texture and color. Keeping a lawn green and lush requires enormous amounts of water, money, time and energy. Consider shrinking your lawn to a small area with a specific purpose, such as a child's play area or a picnic area. Instead of grass, cover the large areas with attractive mulches of chopped bark, pebbles or lava rock. A few water-efficient plants are easily planted in the mulched area, including evergreens such as juniper or flowering plants such as lavender or yarrow. Evergreen ground covers -- creeping juniper or wintercreeper, for example -- are suitable substitutes for grass, as most require very little water once established. Some, including periwinkle and pachysandra, even thrive in shade.

- Putting mulch around your plants can reduce water loss by as much as 25%. Choose organic mulches, like wood chips or shredded bark. Inorganic mulches, such as gravel and lava rock, absorb and reflect heat and may increase water loss.
- Grow native plants as they need less watering and tend to need less maintenance.
- Reduce the size of your lawn. Most back yards require 10,000 gallons of water each year just to stay green.
- Change your irrigation procedures. Only water your plants when necessary instead of relying on automatic sprinklers or similar methods that might apply water even when the plants aren't thirsty.

QUICK FACTS

1. Swapping a 5.5 gpm shower head for one that uses 2.5 gpm can save 27,000 gallons of water for a family of four each year, resulting in a savings of \$260 annually.
2. Drop tissues in the trash instead of flushing them and save water every time.
3. Dishwashers typically use less water than washing dishes by hand. Today's Energy Star dishwashers save even more water and energy.
4. Washing dark clothes in cold water saves water and energy, and helps your clothes retain their color.

WINTERIZING TIPS

Winter is right around the corner and the City would like to offer tips to help you avoid any damage to your home, inside and out.

1. **Wrap pipes in unheated locations, such as crawl spaces beneath your house or in your garage, with foam insulation, pipe wrap or heat tape.** When preparing your house for winter, you need to protect water pipes and prevent them from freezing and bursting.
2. **Install storm windows, if you have them.** If you don't have storm or double paned windows, you may put plastic on the windows when winterizing buildings.
3. **Clean out your gutters.** Having gutters clear of debris will allow rain or melted snow to flow off your roof into drainage, rather than onto your house or into your foundation.
4. **Turn off your sprinklers** – You'll want to do this just before the temperature drops below freezing so your lawn doesn't turn into an ice rink.
5. **Drain your sprinkler lines** – Water expands when it freezes and could cause your sprinkler pipes to burst. Many sprinkler systems automatically drain, but you may have a valve you will need to open to let the water out.
6. **Tune up your heating system.** For about \$80 to \$100, a technician will inspect your furnace or heat pump to be sure the system is clean and in good repair, and that it can achieve its manufacturer-rated efficiency. The inspection also measures carbon-monoxide leakage.
7. **Reverse your ceiling fans.** If your ceiling fan has a reverse switch, use it to run the fan's blades in a clockwise direction after you turn on your heat. Energy Star says the fan will produce an updraft and push down into the room heated air from the ceiling (remember, hot air rises).

Visit our Website:

www.cityofshastalake.org

for more information on

Rebates and Conservation Tips