



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
**Water Department**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT:**

Ruby Alejandria

(619) 232-2112

[rubya@collaborativeservices.biz](mailto:rubya@collaborativeservices.biz)

***Tap into Water Savings for Your Home***

**By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager**

**SAN DIEGO** – Recycling isn't the only way to make your home Earth-friendly. One of the easiest things you can do to help the environment is conserve water at home. Conserving water helps decrease demand on local water supplies and can even decrease your utility bills. By saving water we also save on energy used to pump and treat water, and we decrease pollution of our beaches and bays. One of the first steps to making your home truly water-friendly, is to look to the trained professionals for help.

“The City of San Diego Water Department has several water-saving programs designed for residents to access free of charge,” states Chris Robbins, Supervising Analyst for the City’s Water Conservation Program. “Water conservation has multiple benefits to all and we want the community to take advantage of our free tools and services. People will save money and also contribute to keeping our environment sustainable.”

Check out what you can do to tap into these water savings now. The following is a partial list of City of San Diego Water Department services and programs you can participate in to make your home truly water-efficient.

***Residential Water Survey Program***

Schedule this free service to receive a comprehensive evaluation of your household water use. This in-home survey provides a complete analysis of all interior and exterior water uses, checks for leaks, provides water saving devices (i.e. showerheads and faucet aerators) as well as water-efficient landscape and irrigation recommendations. To date, more than 30,000 residences have participated in the survey program, estimated to provide a savings of 1.2 million gallons per day.

### ***Ultra-Low Flush Toilet Voucher Program***

Participate in the Toilet Voucher Program that promotes an incentive of up to \$75 for replacing older, higher flush toilets with water-efficient models. Customers receive vouchers that reduce the cost of water efficient toilets at the time of purchase. The voucher program is estimated to provide the City close to 8 million gallons of water savings each day from the more than 200,000 low-flush toilets installed.

### ***High-Efficiency Clothes Washer (HEW) Program***

Purchase a High-Efficiency Clothes Washer. Similar to the toilet voucher program, the HEW program offers a discount of up to \$125 toward the purchase of an approved residential High-Efficiency Washing Machine. A high-efficiency machine uses 40 percent less water than the average washer, uses 55 percent less energy, and reduces drying time by 50 percent. A single machine can save approximately 5,100 gallons of water per year. Vouchers are available for both residential and coin-operated, commercial models.

### ***Landscape Watering Calculator***

As half our water use at home is for irrigation, access the Landscape Watering Calculator on the City's Water Conservation Program website to help you create a water efficient irrigation schedule specific to your landscaping needs. The calculator is an easy-to-use tool that provides customers with a schedule for appropriate times and durations for watering. Available 24-hours a day, the calculator accounts for water savings of more than 281,000 gallons per day. ([www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water))

### ***Water Conservation Garden on the Campus of Cuyamaca College***

Visit the Water Conservation Garden to learn and gather more ideas on how you can create and maintain beautiful healthy gardens. The garden serves as a learning resource center that includes an amphitheater, multiple educational exhibits, more than 360 trees, and 100,000 square feet of water-efficient landscaping well-suited to San Diego's climate. For more information, including directions, hours of operation and special events, please visit [www.thegarden.org](http://www.thegarden.org).

### ***How do I sign up?***

It's easy. Here are the numbers you can call to participate in the programs mentioned above...

Residential Water Survey Program: (619) 570-1999

Voucher Programs (Ultra-Low Flush Toilets/High-Efficiency Clothes Washers): (800) 986-4538

Water Conservation Garden: (619) 660-0614

General Water Conservation Information: (619) 515-3500

Saving water can become as easy and routine as recycling with these free programs. Just start one step at a time and before you know it, water conservation will be a part of your lifestyle.

*The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation and the programs and services listed above, please visit [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water) or call 619.515.3500.*