



## New Year. New You. New Outlook.

When you think about it, most New Year's resolutions are about ways to improve ourselves. People vow to lose weight, stop smoking, exercise more often, and organize closets.

All of these are great, but let's think bigger. How about making a resolution that helps you and everyone in San Diego? How about making a resolution that's good for the planet? What can you do to make a difference in the world in which we live?

This magical resolution? Become a San Diegan who "wastes no water." Here in San Diego, we have to import most of the water we use. It's a finite resource, one that could become even tougher to access as climate changes, population grows and demand for it increases.

That's why resolving to save water now is such a great idea. In addition to being an easy resolution to meet, it's also the least expensive option to making sure we have water for the future. It's good for you and good for everyone in San Diego. Make a commitment today and inspire others to "waste no water."

Here are some simple tips to make water conservation a part of your 2012 lifestyle:

- Wash only full loads of laundry and dishes.
- Take quick five-minute showers.
- Low-flow showerheads can save you lots of water. (See mouse showering at right.)
- When brushing your teeth, you'll save water by turning off the faucet.
- Fixing leaks ASAP is another big help and is required.
- A watering calculator can help you create a water-saving irrigation schedule.
- Checking for leaks inside and outside your home is another smart water-saving technique.
- Having a smart sprinkler controller that adjusts watering based on weather, soil and plants can do wonders too.

As promised, these are easy steps to take. This resolution is much less of a hassle than organizing closets, which is really a pain, particularly if you haven't done so since 2001.

For ideas and information on conserving water, please [learn more here](#).

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Opportunities to learn how to be a San Diegan who "wastes no water" are all throughout San Diego. Enjoy the new year and learn what you can do at:

### CELEBRATE TREES

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Recital Hall, Balboa Park

- Reception starts at 5:30 p.m.

- Program goes from 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

For event details, [read more here](#).

### NATIVE PLANT CONFERENCE

Saturday, January 14, 2012

Town & Country Resort and Conference Center, Mission Valley from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Free and open to the public on this day, [read more here](#).

### HOMEOWNER ASSOCIATION TOUR

Saturday, January 28, 2012

The Water Conservation Garden @ 9:30 a.m.  
\$5 per person. Reservations are required.  
For information, contact (619) 660-6841.

## DID YOU KNOW?

How much water does a low-flow showerhead save each week?



Children's 2011 Poster Contest  
Edmund Sumpena, 1st Grade, 2nd Place

Answer: You save up to 230 gallons a week! Here's a resolution that's easy to do: Switch to a low-flow showerhead and be a San Diegan who "wastes no water."

Source: City of San Diego

## San Diego Art Teacher Inspires Conservation

It's a new year and the City is looking for young new talent. The 12th Annual Poster Contest has just kicked off and all teachers are invited to enter their students' artwork. This month, we spoke with Maggie Chiang, an art teacher at Canyonside Recreation Center, who has encouraged her students to participate in the contest for six years and counting. We thank Maggie for her efforts to get her students working on their poster entries.

**Q:** How did you hear about the poster contest?

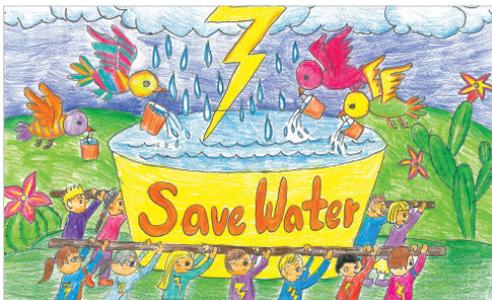
**A:** The City sent out a flier about the poster contest and I thought it sounded like a great contest to get the kids to participate in.

**Q:** What enticed you to get your students involved?

**A:** I think it is very important to save water and to have clean and safe drinking water. Educating students through art is a great way to get them engaged in the conservation conversation.

**Q:** Are your students excited about this contest?

**A:** Yes, they look forward to it every year. Even their parents are excited and proud to have their kids participate. It becomes a family activity as they learn about water and create meaningful messages about how to save it. Everyone loves the message of water conservation and it is great that the City makes a yearly calendar that displays the winning posters.



Jane Wang, 1st Grade, 2nd Place

**Q:** How do you educate your students about water conservation?

**A:** We discuss in class what the students do to save water and why water conservation is important. We use online resources, such as the City's website, to help come up with further conservation ideas.

**Q:** What are you looking forward to the most in this year's contest?

**A:** The art that my students create. It is really beautiful and I love how creative they are in displaying their message of water conservation.

The Poster Contest is open to public, private and home-schooled 1st– 6th graders in the City of San Diego, Coronado and Imperial Beach. The deadline for contest entries is March 30, 2012. For more contest details and the entry form, please [click here](#).

## Outdoor Landscape Rebate Program

A water-efficient landscape and irrigation system reduces outdoor water use and minimizes the gunk that enters the storm drain system because there's less water running off of landscaping and surfaces. Cool. What better way to welcome the New Year?

The City of San Diego is working to help customers conserve water by offering rebates for Smart Controllers, micro-irrigation and turf replacement.

But that's not all. Starting January 15, residential customers who are served by an individual water meter can receive a cash-back rebate when buying a "rainwater harvesting system" (a rain barrel) and connecting it to the home's rain gutter downspout.

Rebates for these rain barrels will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis because

funding is limited. More information will soon be available [here](#) starting January 15th.

Commercial and multi-family customers (greater than four units) can land deals, too. Rebates for Smart Controllers, micro-irrigation and turf replacement are available now. (One rebate is allowed per customer per fiscal year.)

For commercial and multi-family rebates & incentives information, [read more here](#).



Rain Barrel

## CONTESTS

### WATER CONSERVATION FILM CONTEST

The *Waste No Water* Film Contest is open to all 11th and 12th grade and college students in the cities of San Diego, Imperial Beach and Coronado. Deadline for entries is April 6, 2012. For details, please [read more here](#).

### CALIFORNIA-FRIENDLY® LANDSCAPE CONTEST

In partnership with several water agencies, the City of San Diego invites you to showcase your water-wise landscaping. Each district winner will receive a \$250 gift certificate and recognition in newsletters of the sponsoring agencies. For official contest rules, please [read more here](#).



2011 Contest Honorable Mention

### UCSD HYDRATION STATION DESIGN COMPETITION

Hydration stations will be installed at UCSD and the Engineers for a Sustainable World is looking for 10– 12 year olds, who attend school in the San Diego County, to create artwork to incorporate in these stations. For competition criteria and deadlines, [read more here](#).

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Click the links in the stories or scan the codes below with your smart phone's QR code scanner to get connected with *San Diegans Waste No Water* today.

Website



Facebook



Twitter

