

SAN DIEGANS
**WASTE
NO WATER**

MESSENGER



WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

MARCH 2012



Spring Forward with Conservation

Spring into celebration. Fire up the grill and get the softball gear out of the closet! This month brings daylight savings time and that means we get an extra hour of daylight. Hurray!

But wait. While daylight savings time opens the door for more summer-like activities, don't be fooled when it comes to your lawn and landscape and their watering needs.

That extra hour of daylight doesn't mean there's an actual extra hour of sun beating down on your yard. We're still getting the same amount of sunshine as before. We just fiddled with the clocks. Don't give into the temptation to increase watering just yet. The dog days of summer are still a long, long way off. So, as always, remember to use water wisely.

For instance, March is actually the second wettest month of the year in San Diego with an average of 2.26 inches of rain falling, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. On average, March has seven days of measurable rain here on the coast.

On rainy days, turn off your irrigation system since Mother Nature is taking care of the job on those days. Let the rain do the watering.

With the days staying light longer, you don't have to lose the cardigan sweater. March's mean

temperature is 60 degrees, just about a degree higher than February's and about two degrees above January's. The average high for March is 66 degrees. That's pretty cool compared to August, San Diego's warmest month, which has an average high of almost 78 degrees. At these temperatures, your lawn and landscapes are not baking in the sun.

Daylight savings time is our cue to change all the clocks in your home and to check the batteries in your irrigation clocks, smoke and carbon monoxide detectors to make sure they are working properly.

There's much more to celebrate this month. Fix a Leak week is March 12-18. Just as you should fix your clock, you should look for and fix leaks in and around your house. Check for leaking toilets, faucets, showerheads, and sprinklers. A small leak can cause big trouble and a big water loss. You can save more than 150 gallons for each leak you fix.

Enjoy the extra hour of daylight, have fun outdoors and be a San Diegan that "wastes no water" every season, all year. We all benefit.

To learn more about the how much water to give your landscape, [check out the Landscape Watering Calculator here.](#)

To read more about Fix a Leak week and make a pledge to "waste no water," [click here.](#)

IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Catch the sunshine and conservation tips at these events:

SAN DIEGO SCIENCE FESTIVAL EXPO DAY – FREE

Saturday, March 24, 2012

PETCO Park from 10:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Join the celebration of science and engineering at PETCO Park. [Learn more here](#) about this full day of fun and education for the whole family and stop by the water conservation booth!

GARDEN FRIENDLY LANDSCAPE CLASS

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Balboa Park Recital Hall (in Palisades Bldg.) from 9:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.

Learn from City Landscape Architect JoEllen Jacoby how to replace your grass with a Garden Friendly and Water Smart Landscape. More event details are available [here.](#)

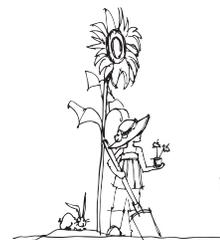
PLANT SALE, ADVICE, AND REBATES

Saturday, March 31, 2012

Home Depot – Mira Mesa
10604 Westview Parkway, San Diego CA
from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Learn tips for planting and maintaining water-wise plants from the Water Conservation staff. More information can be found [here.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?



**Mulch can
make your
garden bed
water wise!**

Putting down mulch is one of the best ways to maintain soil moisture, give a fresh look to your garden bed and to save water.

Source: San Diego Water Conservation Program

San Diegan Andrew Levacy Catches Savings

The City of San Diego recently kicked off its Rain Barrel Rebate Pilot Program and Andrew Levacy and his family were the first to take advantage of this opportunity. We caught up with Levacy to find out how his rain harvesting is going during his spring gardening efforts.

Q: *What inspired you to install rain barrels at your home?*

A: We were inspired after just purchasing our first home. We wanted to lower our water bill and it just made sense to harvest the available rain to use in the garden.

Q: *How did you determine the type of rain barrels for your needs?*

A: We chose two urn shaped rain barrels which each hold 65 gallons. It was important that the rain barrels not look obtrusive next to the house and that a spigot and hose were attached. We ended up finding the best price online.

Q: *Have you been able to harvest rainwater and use it in your garden?*

A: There have been at least two major rainstorms since we've installed the rain barrels. Both times the barrels filled to capacity. It felt great to be able to water the garden days later, simply relying on water from the barrels.

Q: *How did you learn about the City's Rain Barrel Rebate Pilot Program?*

A: We were on the City's website looking up a similar rebate program available to homeowners willing to



Levacy & his daughter "waste no water." transform their lawn into a water conserving garden. This led us to the rain barrels rebate.

Q: *Would you recommend the program to others?*

A: Yes, installing rain barrels saves water and money and the rebate program was an incentive to start capturing rainwater right away. Everyone who comes to see our new house gets a tour and we always show off the rain barrels.

Q: *What other favorite conservation steps have you taken to "waste no water"?*

A: Our garden is full of native, drought resistant plants.

The Rain Barrel Rebate Pilot Program is well under way. For information on how you too can start saving water in your garden, [read more here.](#)

Taking Care of Our Watersheds

Enjoy the springtime at the City's reservoirs with fishing and picnics. These bodies of water are more than just lakes, they are part of our watersheds and hold our local water supply.

Each of us lives, works, or plays in the watersheds. Watersheds are pockets of land that drain water into reservoirs, where our drinking water is stored. What we do in our everyday lives can have an effect on the watersheds, the reservoirs, and the quality of our drinking water.

The City's Public Utilities Department takes many steps to protect our watersheds. It's a priority because pollutants, sediments, and other materials from the watersheds end up in the reservoirs.

To protect our watersheds, the City:

- Uses efficient and low emission motors on rental and patrol boats at the reservoirs
- Educates nearby residents about how activities at their homes can affect water quality
- Provides Source Water Protection Guidelines
- Works with other government agencies to influence land-use practices
- Patrols reservoirs and watershed lands
- Uses best management practices on construction sites to prevent stormwater runoff

For information on how you too can start saving water in your garden, [read more here.](#)

Contest Deadlines

The deadlines for the Water Conservation Program's *Waste No Water Kids'* Poster Contest and the Film Contest are rapidly approaching! Spring into action and win some great prizes when you encourage San Diegans to "waste no water." Enter to win today.

WASTE NO WATER POSTER CONTEST

Open to 1st - 6th Grade students in San Diego, Coronado and Imperial Beach School Districts. Get contest information and entry forms [here.](#)

Deadline: March 30, 2012

WASTE NO WATER FILM CONTEST

Open to High School Juniors and Seniors and all college students. For contest information, [click here.](#)

Deadline: April 6, 2012

ONLINE RESOURCES

IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY

Over watering of lawns and landscapes is the most common cause of water waste. [Learn more here](#) about watering basics, automatic irrigation systems, scheduling and maintenance and new irrigation technologies.

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION (CLCA) CAN HELP YOU SAVE

CLCA's licensed landscape contractors can successfully help reduce your outdoor water use and save you money in the process. [Here are some ways](#) a landscape professional can help you reduce your water use.

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.

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