

SAN DIEGANS  
**WASTE  
NO WATER**

# MESSENGER



WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM

APRIL 2012



Every Day, Earth Day, "Waste No Water."

## Take Care of Water. Take Care of the Earth.

This month we celebrate Earth Day. Take the time to think about how precious water is to our quality of life as we celebrate our wonderful planet.

It's pretty common knowledge that most of the world is covered with water. (Just look at a globe.) About 70 percent of it, in fact, is covered by water. Most of that water — 97 percent of it — is in the oceans and it's not drinkable because it contains salt and other minerals. That leaves about two percent of that water being fresh water. But most of that— about 2 percent — is trapped in frozen polar ice caps and is inaccessible. That means that less than one percent of all the water on the planet is fresh water that we can actually use.

That wasn't much of a problem years ago, when the Earth's population was much lower than it is today. Now, the Earth has 7 billion people and counting. In 1900, by comparison, the number stood at 1.6 billion. So we're adding a lot more people and we have limited water sources.

That available fresh water isn't just used for drinking. We use it daily for almost everything. We water lawns, wash clothes, take showers, flush toilets and clean dishes. Fresh water is also used by businesses and manufacturers to produce goods that are needed. Preserving the water supply is a must in order to meet all of these demands.

The best way to meet the demand is to be careful with the water we have and not to waste it. Be water wise. It's not that difficult. Every homeowner can take part by performing simple steps such as fixing leaks, cutting back on landscape irrigation, and replacing showerheads with low-flow ones.

It's hard to name a better place to celebrate Earth Day than here in San Diego. We are surrounded by so much natural beauty that it's intoxicating. San Diego, as blessed as it is, has one major challenge: It doesn't have much water. Indeed, San Diego has to import up to 85 percent of it from Northern California and the Colorado River.

So on this Earth Day you might want to consider taking part in the big celebration in a personal way: Become a San Diegan who "wastes no water."

Start the celebration by attending the annual EarthFair in Balboa Park on Sunday, April 22, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. EarthFair is the largest free annual environmental fair in the world, with around 60,000 visitors a year. Make sure to stop by the water conservation booth! Find more event information [here](#).

And remember — Every Day, Earth Day, "Waste No Water." For more water savings tips, [learn more here](#).

## IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Show your love for water and the Earth at these events:

### CORONADO FLOWER SHOW

Saturday, April 21, from 1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday, April 22, from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Coronado's Village at Orange Ave., between 6th & 7th St., Coronado,  
Admire the flower exhibits, enjoy music, entertainment and visit the water conservation booth. Event details can be found [here](#).

### PLANT SALE, ADVICE AND REBATES

Saturday, April 21, 2012  
from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Home Depot – Carmel Mountain  
12185 Camel Mountain Rd., San Diego  
Learn tips for planting and maintaining water-wise plants from the Water Conservation staff. More information can be found [here](#).

### SPRING GARDEN FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 28  
from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
The Water Conservation Garden  
Visit the water conservation booth and also join in a free San Diego Watercolor Society Paint-out Demonstration at the Gazebo. Event details can be found [here](#).

## Did you know?



**Save 50 gallons a week per person.**

How? Catch the cool water in a bucket or watering can while waiting for hot water to come down the pipes. You can use it later to water plants, run your garbage disposal, or pour into the toilet bowl to flush.

Source: San Diego Water Conservation Program

## Every Day is Earth Day for USD

The City of San Diego's Water Conservation Program is excited to celebrate Earth Day. In advance of the celebration, we caught up with our partner, the University of San Diego's (USD) Office of Sustainability, and talked with Coordinators Michael Catanzaro and Paula Morreale, to hear about their Earth Day celebrations.

**Q:** *What is the mission of the USD Office of Sustainability?*

**A:** We promote sustainable infrastructure improvements and sustainability-centered programs on campus that collectively produce resource conservation results.

**Q:** *What are your plans to celebrate Earth Day?*

**A:** Earth Day wasn't enough! We will celebrate Earth Day throughout the month of April. We are providing a variety of sustainability events that are centered on water, energy, food, etc.

**Q:** *What is the main event that is highlighted throughout the month?*

**A:** The Dali Lama is coming to campus on April 18th and sustainability is a cornerstone of his message of consciously and compassionately being a part of the world. We hope this message will resonate with our students and further advance their sustainable efforts.

**Q:** *What programs or events are focused on water conservation issues?*

**A:** During the first week in April, students are going to create displays that help students conceptualize 15 million gallons of water — this is the amount of water USD saved last year. This is a 15% reduction



USD students "waste no water."

in our water consumption and it is something we want to promote and celebrate.

**Q:** *Why is water conservation so important?*

**A:** Water is the most important and limited resource in Southern California. The entire ecosystem is affected by the use and over-use of water and we can't afford to waste it. At USD, we were able to save 15 million gallons of water in 2010-2011 through the installation of:

- low-flow aerators in all faucets across campus
- low-flow shower heads
- water-efficient toilet and urinals across campus
- Rain Bird sprinkler system with an online satellite

Let's also congratulate the USD Office for Sustainability on receiving the Outstanding Sustainable Organization award given by the California Center for Sustainable Energy.

For information on USD's conservation efforts and how you can also save water, [read more here](#).

## ONLINE RESOURCES

### KIDS WATER CONSERVATION CORNER

You play an important role in making sure that every drop counts and there are things you can do to help each family save water. If everyone saves a little we can save a lot.

[Read more here](#) for tips and other resources for kids to take an active part in water conservation.



### RESIDENTIAL MICRO-IRRIGATION REBATE

You can help reduce your outdoor water use, keep your landscape more attractive and healthy, and save money on your water bill by upgrading to micro-irrigation. [Here is more information](#) on the City's Residential Micro-Irrigation Rebate.

### 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



## City of San Diego Makes the Most of Energy and Water

When it comes to using renewable energy, the City of San Diego is on the cutting edge to ensure quality, reliability, and sustainability at their Point Loma Waste Water Treatment Plant and the Public Utilities' Kearny Mesa headquarters. That's a good thing for our planet and city ratepayers.

Check out the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant. It's energy self-sufficient and actually sells most of the excess renewable electricity it generates.

How? At the plant, there are eight digesters, tanks which use heat and bacteria to break down organic solids removed from the wastewater. One of the byproducts of this process, though, is

methane gas. That's right! Fuel! It's used to power the plant's generators. Additionally, the plant uses hydroelectric power. By using this power and selling the excess energy, the City saves nearly \$2 million a year in energy costs at the this facility.

Because the Point Loma Wastewater Treatment Plant sits on a bluff, treated effluent is discharged into the ocean through a 4.5-mile outfall after a 90-foot drop from the plant. Moving water produces — you guessed it — renewable energy. The City takes advantage of the electricity produced and sells it to the grid. It's enough to power 1,000 homes.

One of the Public Utilities Department's office buildings uses a first-of-its-kind solar electric

system, which saves \$10,000 a year in energy costs at its Kearny Mesa campus. [Read more here](#) about the City's renewable energy efforts.



Point Loma  
Wastewater Treatment Plant