



## Water Conservation at EMWD

---

### Overview

Water conservation is a central theme at Eastern Municipal Water District. With 116,000 homes and businesses, and growth that sometimes tops 1,000 new customers a month, conservation is a primary focus for the District. Looking out to the year 2025, projections are for another 140,000 new homes or more in EMWD's service area. In the intervening 20 years, the total population in the service area is expected to grow from 560,000 to 960,000 or more—those additional 400,000 people represent an increase of some 70 percent.

### Conservation Programs

EMWD's goal is to reduce per capita water use by 25 percent over the next two decades. To achieve that, EMWD promotes targeted programs, offers rebates, educates consumers and helps customers locate and fix irrigation leaks. In the past 10 years, more than \$2 million have been invested in conservation programs with help from Metropolitan Water District (MWD), grants and EMWD's local water agencies.

EMWD's conservation programs represent an overall savings of 12,000 acre feet—enough to serve 24,000 homes. Some of the those programs and estimated amounts of savings during the past 10 years include:

- Ultra-Low-Flush Toilets (ULFT). More than 15,700 ULFTs have been installed in residential homes (5,000 acre-feet saved).
- Residential High-Efficiency Clothes Washers (HECW). More than 1,000 HECW units have been installed. They use 40 percent less water and require 55 percent less energy (232 acre-feet saved).
- Commercial-Industrial-Institutional hardware incentive program. Spray valves, waterbrooms, waterless urinals, conductivity controllers (moisture sensors) and X-ray processors (1,420 acre-feet saved).
- Water-saving showerhead program. Customers are using more than 25,500 low-flow showerheads and conservation kits handed out at headquarters and community outreach.
- Waterbroom giveaway program. Every school in EMWD's service area was given a free waterbroom (192 acre-feet saved).



## Recognized as an Industry Leader

With its long-standing commitment to innovative water conservation measures, the District is recognized as a leader in the water industry:

- EMWD is one of the original statewide coalition of agencies that developed Best Management Practices (BMPs) in conservation for urban water use efficiency.
- EMWD was selected by MWD to pilot a program with three residential developments whereby California Friendly Landscapes are installed in both model and production homes. The objective of the pilot program for 257 new homes is to develop new voluntary landscaping irrigation standards. Expected savings from pilot program—9.7 million gallons per year, or 30 acre-feet.
- Another innovative partnership with MWD is the California Friendly Model Home Program. This project offers financial incentives for builders to install water-efficient landscaping, fixtures and appliances in new model homes, demonstrating significant water savings for homeowners without diminishing the quality of life.
- Commercial, industrial and institutional customers with more than 3,000 square feet of landscaping and state-mandated water budgets are offered incentives and rebates for the latest irrigation technologies. Audits for the large landscape program are provided in collaboration with San Jacinto Basin Resource Conservation District (5,033 acre-feet saved).
- Grant funding opportunities develop and finance innovative conservation programs using the latest technologies available.

## Education is Key

EMWD has also developed comprehensive water conservation educational opportunities for children and adults. Programs include:

- California Friendly Workshops to more than 3,200 participants. Topics include California Friendly plants, composting and green-waste recycling, landscape watering and fertilizing, and basic irrigation (design, drip and maintenance). California Friendly Landscapes save water because of reduced irrigation, less fertilizer and maintenance. In addition, the California Friendly Landscape offers environmental benefits, such as reducing run-off and the need for pesticides. Seeking to reduce residential water use by showcasing the beauty of the California Friendly Landscapes is further evidence of EMWD's commitment to water use efficiency.
- Residential surveys that assist the homeowner to identify leaks and other irrigation inefficiencies, assisting in developing an irrigation schedule, helpful landscapes tips that are free to EMWD customers (172 acre-feet saved).
- Protector del Agua (PDA) courses that are provided annually to landscape maintenance staffs. The course consists of six 4-hour consecutive classes in landscape water management. Each class builds on principles presented in the preceding class. PDA begins with basic irrigation principles of soil-plant-water relationships and concludes with irrigation scheduling. Every participant receives a bound booklet of the course and a certificate of completion.
- School classroom presentations, facilities tours and educational resources are made available to 116,000 students in 10 school districts within EMWD's 555-square-mile service area.