



Celebrate Water Conservation Month this April and Save Water, Money, and the Environment



April has been proclaimed Water Conservation Month by Florida's Governor Scott, the Department of Environmental Protection, and the South Florida Water Management District .

Through conservation you can help make sure there is enough water for both humans and the natural environment.

Save Water = Save Florida

With Florida's growing population and increased demand for water supply, many of our state's native habitats are in danger of disappearing. Providing ample clean water for human consumption takes a huge amount of energy and often impacts our wetlands, ponds, lakes, streams, rivers and estuaries.

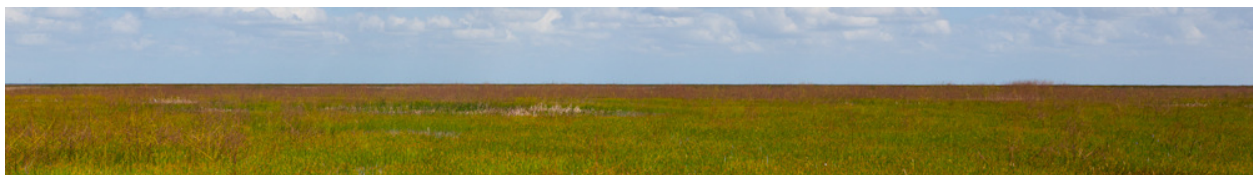
Birds and other wildlife that call Florida home have fewer places to breed, and the millions of migrating birds that pass through our state twice each year have fewer places to rest and refuel.

These natural systems are critical for the survival of our native plants, birds and other wildlife. Watering lawns accounts for half of all potable water used in Florida. By modifying the way we design backyard landscapes and use water indoors, we can dramatically reduce water consumption while providing food, water and shelter for birds.

Save Water = Save Money

The simple act of conserving water can be much more effective than building new facilities to treat water. In an outstanding success story, rather than building a new water treatment facility or asking the South Florida Water Management District for an additional water allocation, Cooper City decided to ask residents to save 5 percent of their total water use by 2013. *The result?* They saved over \$11 million and almost doubled the water savings.

Residents can also earn money through water conservation. Some counties and municipalities offer incentives to retrofit homes to save water. For example, Miami-Dade County provides rebates to residents of up to \$400 per year for a total of \$1,200 per property to make irrigation systems more water efficient. The county also provides free upgrades to bathroom fixtures that have not been changed since 1996.



Top 10 Tips For Saving Water in Florida



- 1. Don't let water run unnecessarily** – *turn it off while brushing your teeth, soaping up, washing dishes, etc.*
- 2. Shorten your shower time.**
- 3. Fix leaking faucets, pipes and running toilets.**
- 4. Reduce water usage in your toilets** – *upgrade to low volume toilets or by placing bricks in the water tank.*
- 5. Install low flow shower heads and sink faucets.**
- 6. Do full loads of laundry.**
- 7. For larger families, using a dishwasher is more efficient than doing them by hand.**
- 8. Upgrade to low volume dishwashers and washing machines.**
- 9. Install a hot water delivery device** – *eliminates running water to get it hot.*
- 10. Landscape for a healthy yard!** *Plant native plants in the right place creating shade, saving water and energy and creating a backyard sanctuary.*