

WATER CONSERVATION

The DSBPC annually adopts an Energy Management Program (EMP) to control and optimize the cost and consumption of energy and energy-related products. Over the past several years, the Energy Management Committee has been concerned with increased water consumption and growing utility cost of poor water management habits. As with the energy program, there are many opportunities to reduce waste and curtail our rapidly growing reliance on precious, limited ground water supplies.

Without question, as water demands in Pasco County continue to increase, prices for fresh water will continue to climb; and most likely, the larger the consumption, the higher the per-gallon rate paid by consumers.

The following water saving tips are from the Energy Management Program manual:

- ◆ Adhere to state and local regulations when irrigating grounds.
- ◆ Provide rain sensors to irrigation systems. Use landscaping mulch to reduce water quantities.
- ◆ Report and repair water leaks immediately. Slow water drips waste 15-20 gallons per day.
- ◆ Up to 75% of water used to sprinkle lawns can be lost through evaporation from soil and plants.
- ◆ The use of water-saving toilets, shower heads and faucet aerators can cut water usage by as much as 25%.
- ◆ A garden hose discharges up to six-and-a-half gallons of water per minute under standard household water pressure.
- ◆ Hot water leaks not only are a waste of water, but a waste of the energy (and money) used to heat that water.
- ◆ A top-loading clothes washer uses between 40 and 55 gallons of water per load; front-load models reduce water usage by about 30%. Make sure washers/dryers are full to capacity before turning them on.
- ◆ Place a plastic bottle filled with water in your toilet tank if you can't switch to a low flow toilet.
- ◆ Position your downspouts so rain water runs onto the lawn or into the garden, not down the driveway.
- ◆ Plant drought-resistant trees and flowers and use a 3" layer of mulch to keep soil moist, prevent erosion and suppress weeds.
- ◆ Irrigate landscape using a dedicated water line or reclaimed water; do not use potable water main.
- ◆ Plant Managers perform periodic water audits to check for leaking pipes.
- ◆ Every drop counts, use it wisely.
- ◆ Visit the Southwest Florida Management District website <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/education/> for great resources to assist you with water conservation.

The information contained on this page is from the Energy Management Plan. For more information contact John Soler, Energy Coordinator at 47955 or jsoler@pasco.k12.fl.us.