



Saving Water Partnership
Seattle and Participating Local Water Utilities

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Saving water benefits people, salmon, and wildlife

Program Overview

The Saving Water Partnership (SWP) is a collaboration of Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) and 18 water utility partners that purchase water from Seattle. The SWP's conservation program emphasizes long-term water use efficiency for residential and commercial customers.

In 2014, the SWP expanded emphasis on community and youth education. The program continues to include educational campaigns for efficient water use in the landscape. The program also continues to include cost-sharing with customers who retrofit old water-using equipment with new equipment that is more efficient than required by national and state appliance and fixture codes.

Collectively, the SWP is working to achieve the region's adopted Water Use Efficiency Goal in compliance with the State of Washington Water Use Efficiency Rule. SWP program direction and the regional Goal are set by management from member utilities.

Conservation prepares the region for potential water supply challenges, helps customers use water wisely, and preserves the ethic of stewarding natural resources.

JUNE 2015

SEATTLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
REGIONAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAM



REGIONAL WATER USE EFFICIENCY GOAL AND 2014 RESULTS

The Saving Water Partnership has adopted a six-year regional Water Use Efficiency Goal: reduce per capita use from current levels so that the Saving Water Partnership's total average annual retail water use is less than 105 million gallons per day (mgd) from 2013 through 2018, despite forecasted population growth.

In 2014, the Saving Water Partnership, with the support of residential and commercial customers, met the goal, using 93.8 mgd. The cost of implementing the SWP program in 2014 was \$1.6 million.

The following elements contribute to achieving the regional Water Use Efficiency Goal:

- **Programmatic Savings:** Savings from customers who change their behavior or install efficient equipment as a result of SWP programs.
- **Code Savings:** Savings that occur as customers replace older, less-efficient water-using fixtures as they break or wear out with new, more-efficient models that meet federal or state codes or standards. These savings are also achieved as new buildings are built using efficient code-compliant equipment.
- **Other Savings:** Savings from customers who switch to more efficient behavior or equipment on their own. These actions are motivated by cost, concern for the environment, price signals from utility rates, and increasing availability of fixtures and appliances that are more efficient than required by code.

2014 Program Highlights

- The new youth education program that launched in 2013 was expanded, conducting 270 in-classroom presentations for more than 6,800 K-12 grade students. Topics included water efficiency, the water cycle, the salmon life cycle, waterwise gardening, and the water supply system. A new class on leaks was developed to replace the Fix-A-Leak Week challenge.



The youth education program grew, conducting 270 in-classroom presentations.

- The SWP provided materials for 12 community festivals and staff for seven festivals in Bothell, Duvall, Northshore, Seattle, and Woodinville, attended by approximately 8,600 customers.
- Six community festivals rolled out the new Water Refilling Station, where customers refilled their water bottles while engaging with utility staff about water quality, water conservation, and other utility topics of interest.



Customers at Bothell's Sustainamania event fill up their water bottles and learn about conservation.

- The Savvy Gardener program presented 14 gardening classes in spring and fall to 300 residential customers. The classes were designed to inspire, create, and maintain healthy, water-efficient landscapes. A new class titled "How to Program Your Irrigation Controller" was taught by SWP irrigation program staff and offered participants a \$150 rebate on installing a rain sensor. Mid-year the program transitioned to a new model in which SWP partners arrange for the classes and the SWP pays for instructor fees.
- The SWP educated landscape professionals on water efficiency topics by co-sponsoring the Green Gardening Workshop.
- Site traffic has grown by 20% since the new and improved regional website, www.savingwater.org, launched in 2013.
- The SWP continued to promote 1.06 gallons per flush (gpf) Premium WaterSense toilets for residential and commercial customers. These toilets use at least 20% less water than a regular WaterSense toilet. New lists of locally available models, and retailers that carry them, were developed to help customers find these models.

Still Have Water Guzzling Toilets?

GET REBATES ON NEW TOILETS & REDUCE WATER BILLS 15-25%

LIMITED OFFER WHILE FUNDS LAST

\$75 REBATE for 1.28 gallons per flush WaterSense Toilets

\$150 REBATE for 1.06 gallons per flush Premium WaterSense Toilets

This direct mail piece promoted toilet rebates to multifamily customers.

- 62 apartment and condominium buildings upgraded nearly 780 toilets to 1.06 gpf Premium WaterSense models and nearly 330 toilets to 1.28 gpf regular WaterSense models. The SWP began surveying program participants in both the Premium WaterSense and regular WaterSense rebate programs to learn more about customer satisfaction with the toilets and the program.
- Water efficiency projects were completed at 56 businesses. Two hotel projects upgraded nearly 800 toilets. Customers are very satisfied with the toilets.

2014 Program Activities

- The Water Smart Technology program researched water-saving opportunities at craft breweries and decorative fountains. The research found several measures that could significantly improve water use in both areas.



A happy small business owner took advantage of the Water Smart Technology Program and was recognized as a green business.

- The SWP is working with a group of utilities and cities to develop a new regional green business program, which will help market commercial conservation programs. The program will feature a unified brand, a one-stop-shop web portal for businesses to find programs, and joint marketing and recognition.
- The Water Smart Technology Program continued “Cool Tunes,” a program to upgrade equipment and monitor the efficiency of cooling towers, long a significant source of water waste. Seven customers are participating in the pilot, and four incentive projects were completed. Results to date are encouraging and will help staff develop cooling tower incentives as an ongoing program.



North City Water District Commissioner Larry Schoonmaker (seated) discusses water conservation at the Shoreline Science, Technology, Engineering & Math Festival.

PROGRAM	ACTIVITY LEVEL
Youth Education	
Classroom Presentations	270 presentations / 6,800 students
Community Outreach	
Festivals and Events	12 festivals / 8,600 festival attendees
Residential Landscape Education	
Savvy Gardener Classes	14 classes / 300 attendees
Garden Hotline	1,100 water efficiency questions 13,450 soil, lawn and plant questions (many relevant to water efficiency)
Natural Yard Care Guides and Fact Sheets	9,050 brochures distributed
Residential Toilets	
Multifamily WaterSense Toilets	35 buildings / 329 toilets
Multifamily Premium WaterSense Toilets	27 buildings / 777 toilets
Single Family WaterSense Toilets	404 homes / 404 toilets
Single Family Premium WaterSense Toilets	87 homes / 96 toilets
Commercial Equipment	
Kitchen Measures	26 projects
Restroom Measures	23 projects / 765 fixtures
Custom Projects	2 projects
Cooling / Refrigeration / Ice	1 project
Cool Tunes (Cooling Tower Incentive)	4 projects completed / 7 ongoing participants
Irrigation Projects	
Landscape Irrigation	8 projects
Landscape Professionals Trainings	
Regional Collaboration (Local Hazardous Waste Management Green Gardening Program)	17 trainings / 590 attendees

Supporting Elements

For Customers

- Technical assistance to residential and commercial customers on irrigation efficiency issues.
- Technical assistance to commercial customers on indoor efficiency issues.
- Regional website www.savingwater.org.
- Regional hotline 206-684-SAVE.
- Regional Language Line, offering language interpretation by phone.
- Take-home items including toilet leak detection kits and hose washers.

For Partner Utilities

- Seasonal message repository for use in utility newsletters and other communications.
- Support for Water Use Efficiency Rule reporting.
- Saving Water Partnership annual report.
- Messaging on water conservation benefits for salmon, in fulfillment of resource agency and tribal agreements.



SWP conducted an irrigation scheduling case study at a commercial property in the City of Renton. The results showed that irrigation run times could be reduced 30% and still maintain attractive, healthy landscapes.



Woodinville Water District (WWD) had great success with the new Water Refilling Station. Top photo: Debbie Rannfeldt (WWD) and Arece Hampton (SPU). Bottom photo: Customers lined up to refill water bottles.



Customers continue to give high ratings to Savvy Gardener classes like this one with Emily Bishton at North City Water District.



Research conducted on craft breweries identified cost-effective measures that can reduce water use for these customers.



Saving Water Partnership

Seattle and Participating Local Water Utilities

(206) 684-SAVE www.savingwater.org

Seattle Regional Water Conservation Service Area



Saving Water Partnership:

Cedar River Water & Sewer District
 City of Bothell
 City of Duval
 City of Mercer Island
 City of Renton
 Coal Creek Utility District
 Highline Water District
 North City Water District
 Northshore Utility District
 Olympic View Water & Sewer District
 Seattle Public Utilities
 Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
 Water District Number 20
 Water District Number 45
 Water District Number 49
 Water District Number 90
 Water District Number 119
 Water District Number 125
 Woodinville Water District

SWP administered by: Seattle Public Utilities Resource Conservation Office

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