

Do Your Part During Water Conservation Month

Seventy to 75 percent of the Earth's surface is covered with water, but less than 3 percent of that amount is freshwater - and only 1 percent is available for drinking water.

You can survive a month without food, but only days without water. And still, we take water for granted.

That's why April is recognized in Florida as Water Conservation Month. Florida is the only state that recognizes the importance of water conservation in such a way.

Hillsborough County Water Resource Services encourages water conservation through educational campaigns and outreach, enforcement of water restrictions, rebate programs and construction of reclaimed water systems. Residents have



paid attention, dropping the average daily water use per person from 146 gallons in 1989, to the current level of 103 gallons per person per day.

Take part in the following:

- Know and follow the water restrictions for your area.
- Fix leaks in your home.
- Install low-flow showerheads, toilets and faucet aerators.
- Raise the height of your lawn mower.
- Put a nozzle on your hose.
- Clean your car at commercial vehicle washes that recycle their water.
- Install a rain sensor switch on your sprinkler system.

Find out more by visiting our website at www.hillsboroughcounty.org/water. Click on the "A-Z" index and go to "Water Conservation." Remember, every drop counts. With your help, we can make a difference when it comes to conserving this vital resource.

Volunteers Needed for Great American Cleanup

About 2 million volunteers in 12,000 communities are expected to join forces this spring as part of a nationwide community improvement effort during the Great American Cleanup.

Keep Hillsborough County Beautiful is coordinating the event locally and expects about 2,000 volunteers to participate during the countywide cleanup on April 22. Check-in will be at 8:30 a.m., and the cleanup will take place from 9 a.m. - noon.



Every year, thousands of animals are entangled in or ingest debris, which often results in their death. Your efforts can help save many animals from this fate – one that is caused by our carelessness.

KHCB is recruiting volunteers for the cleanup, which will take place at several locations throughout the county.

Last year, almost 1,700 volunteers picked up an estimated 56,000 pounds of trash including bottles, cans and cigarette butts.

KHCB originated from a group of concerned residents in Hillsborough County, who saw that litter was becoming a problem based on urban growth, lack of community pride and limited knowledge of disposal options. The non-profit organization is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful Inc.

To get involved with the Great American Cleanup, call (813) 960-5121.

Fun Facts About Water

- The most common substance found on earth is water.



- Water is the only substance found naturally in three forms: solid, liquid and gas.

- A gallon of water weighs 8.34 pounds.

- A leaky toilet can waste as much as 200 gallons of water a day.



- Once evaporated, a water molecule spends 10 days in the air.

- The average American family turns on the tap between 70 and 100 times daily.

- A clothes washer uses about 50 gallons of water.

Dialing 911 with New Types of Telephone Systems

Telephone service using Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) may seem to work like a regular telephone, but it works using the Internet, not a traditional telephone line. This may critically affect your emergency call to 911. Consider the following:

- Check with your service provider to find out if you have access to 911 with your VoIP system.
- When calling for emergency help, give your location and call back number.
- If the power goes out, so may your VoIP system.
- If you travel with your VoIP adapter, your VoIP may not work for making 911 calls. Call from another telephone.



For more information on 911 using VoIP, go to www.911voip.org.

Use 911 for Emergencies Only!

Remember to only use 911 for an emergency. Keep the following telephone numbers handy if you need non-emergency assistance from police, fire rescue or medical professionals:

Hillsborough County Sheriff	247-8200
Hillsborough County Fire/Medical	272-5665
Tampa Police	231-6130
Tampa Fire/Rescue	232-6800
Temple Terrace Police	989-7110
Plant City Police	757-9200
Florida Highway Patrol	632-6859
Poison Information Center	1-800-222-1222
County and Hurricane Information	272-5900
Animal Services	744-5660
State Health Department	307-8000

NEWS BRIEFS...

Medicare Prescription Drug Assistance

Many Hillsborough County residents still have questions and concerns regarding enrollment into the new Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Part D. Hillsborough County's Aging Services and Health & Social Services Departments are now offering additional assistance to the public by calling 272-6630. The helpline is open Monday - Friday, from 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. After hours customers can leave a voicemail message and it will be returned the next business day.

Elderly Residents Get Help With Energy Bills

Hillsborough County is now offering Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program Funds. These funds are designed to help low-income households 60 years of age or older, who have received a past due or final notice for their home energy bill. The program is intended for those residents that are 152% of the federal poverty guidelines or below. To apply, check with the Neighborhood Service Center nearest you or visit Hillsborough County's Web site at www.hillsboroughcounty.org.

Hillsborough County Communicator

Published every month by the Communications Department to inform residents about the programs, services and activities of their County government.

For more information, call the Hillsborough Information Line at 272-5900, or visit the county's website at: www.hillsboroughcounty.org

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Hillsborough County

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EVERY DROP COUNTS

Most people think that saving a few gallons of water can't possibly add up to much. However, if everyone served by Water Resource Services conserved 10 gallons a day, it would amount to more than 3 million gallons a day!



Saving 10 gallons a day is easier than you may think. You can save 2.5 gallons if you cut your shower time by just one minute. Turn off the water while you're brushing your teeth or soaping up your hands, and you can save a gallon a minute.

Men who shave with the water running can add another 10 gallons of savings if they merely fill the basin and turn off the tap. Have a short cycle on your automatic dishwasher? Save 4 gallons. And don't forget low-flow toilets, showerheads and sink aerators.

These are things that almost everyone can do. People who irrigate their lawns and landscapes have opportunities to save considerably more water.

If everyone just saved 10 gallons a day, that would total more than 1.2 billion gallons a year. And that amounts to a 28-day supply based on today's average daily use. So don't forget - every drop counts!

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