

Leadership Message

Conservation Inside Your Home

Conserving water is a hot topic in the Summer, when pools are being filled and sprinklers are being run, but water conservation is an important topic year-round. Conserving water at home protects the environment and water-saving solutions and appliances can save you money on your water bill. Continue reading to discover ways to conserve water at home.



Kitchen:

- Run a full dishwasher, get the most use of the water you're using.
 - ENERGY STAR certified dishwashers are 30 percent more efficient than other models. Pre-washing isn't required with most modern dishwashers so skip this step to save even more water when you wash.
 - If you have to wash by hand, plug up the sink or use a wash basin.
- Soak pots and pans overnight so you don't have to run water for a long time trying to scrape off the gunk.
- Keep a bowl in the sink to catch the cold water that normally goes down the drain when you are waiting for the water to warm up. Use that cold water to water your plants, cook, or give to your pets.

Bathroom - where over half of all water use inside a home takes place:

- Replace your baths with showers, they generally use less water.
 - A full bathtub can use up to 70 gallons of water, while taking a 5-minute shower uses approximately 10 - 25 gallons.
- Only flush when necessary.
 - The average American uses the most water when flushing the toilet each day. To conserve, avoid discarding random items down the toilet and using it as a trash bin.
- Check for leaks. Pipe leaks are a major waste of water, and the worst part is you are not aware you are using it!
 - Add a toilet tab or food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 15 minutes. You can pick up toilet tabs for free at our main office located at 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey.

(Continued on Page 3)

Thurston PUD Commissioners

District 1

Linda Oosterman

District 2

Russell E. Olsen

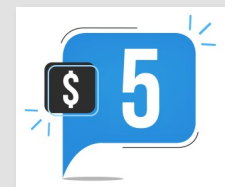
District 3

Chris Stearns

In This Issue

- ◆ **Call Before You Dig!**
—Page 2
- ◆ **Field Staff At Work**
—Page 3

Customer Satisfaction Survey,
Earn a \$5 Credit! -
Learn More on
Page 4



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Five Steps for Safe Digging—Call Before You Dig

Weather is getting warmer, so those outdoors projects may be calling your name! Before beginning any landscaping or beginning other outdoor projects that require digging, call 811 to notify your local utilities and have underground pipes and wires marked. These five simple steps could save you thousands of dollars in repairs.



- 1. Notify.** Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start your project.
- 2. Wait.** Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.
- 3. Confirm.** Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.
- 4. Respect.** Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.
- 5. Dig Carefully.** If you can't avoid digging near the markers, consider moving your project.

Complete This Conservation Themed Word Search!

CONSERVE
EFFICIENCY
LEAK

DISHWASHER
FAUCET
REUSE

DRIP
LAUNDRY
SHOWER

H	T	X	B	U	V	M	C	E	S	E	R	E	V	W
R	D	O	J	L	J	K	V	A	G	F	E	O	S	Y
U	Z	X	T	Q	A	R	A	J	Q	F	H	L	K	L
X	V	W	Z	E	E	D	X	E	H	I	S	Z	H	T
V	Q	S	M	S	C	L	B	D	L	C	A	X	U	N
K	Z	M	N	U	Y	U	R	N	Y	I	W	E	W	J
S	H	O	W	E	R	I	A	G	I	E	H	L	A	T
G	C	J	O	G	P	P	U	F	Q	N	S	C	M	V
W	N	H	K	C	R	P	B	G	Z	C	I	Y	T	P
R	K	C	D	O	S	E	B	D	B	Y	D	M	A	C
F	T	X	V	D	X	O	U	N	E	A	I	O	G	T
Y	R	D	N	U	A	L	H	S	R	M	Z	K	M	Q
G	O	Q	W	O	F	Y	V	P	E	G	Q	V	H	U
N	F	V	U	D	O	E	O	L	D	W	W	H	M	P
R	T	K	V	X	V	D	B	Q	J	B	I	T	Z	R

Field Staff at Work—Replacing a Well Pump

Pictured below and to the right are Field Technicians replacing a well pump at a Thurston PUD owned water system in Lacey. A well pump is a device that extracts water from an underground well so it can go into the distribution system.



Conservation Inside Your Home (Continued from Page 1)

- Repair dripping faucets and showerheads. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a single dripping faucet can waste up to 3,000 gallons of water per year, which is the equivalent to the amount of water used in roughly 180 showers.
- Turn off the sink as you brush and shave. Turning the faucet off when you brush your teeth can save you approximately 8 - 10 gallons of water per day.
- Install WaterSense labeled fixtures in your bathroom.
 - WaterSense labeled toilets use 20 percent less water compared to older, inefficient models.
 - Replacing old, inefficient faucets with WaterSense labeled faucets and accessories can reduce a sink's water flow by 30 percent.



Laundry

- Wash only full loads of clothes or lower the water settings for smaller loads.
- Replace your old washing machine with a high-efficiency, ENERGY STAR labeled model, which uses up to 50 percent less water and electricity.

For more information on WaterSense labeled products that can save you money in the long run, visit <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/start-saving>.

Coming in April: Take the Survey, Get a One-Time \$5 Credit!

In April, we invite all PUD customers to take part in a short survey that will help us improve the service we provide you. It's just another way we offer you the opportunity to take part in the way we shape our work.

As our way of saying thanks for completing the survey, we will offer a \$5 credit toward your bill for the first 200 customers who complete the survey. The survey will launch on April 1 and closes April 30. Accounts will be credited with May bills (that are due in June).



The survey should take approximately 10 minutes to take and can be completed from your computer, tablet, or mobile device! Starting on April 1, visit www.ThurstonPUD.org and click on the link on the front page. You may also call or visit our office and request a paper application.

For more details visit the website or for questions about the survey, call Customer Service at (360) 357-8783.

Project Help—Customer Support Program

Do you qualify as income-eligible and need assistance with paying your water bill? You may qualify to receive a credit towards your utility bill through our Project Help Customer Support Program.

To be eligible for assistance you must: (1) be a customer with the PUD, with an active account in your name, (2) have received a disconnect notice for your water service, and (3) provide documentation that household income is \$64,000 or less.

If you are a customer in need, we encourage you to reapply each year. Contact our Customer Service Team with any questions or concerns about the program's requirements.

To apply, visit our website at www.thurstonpud.org to complete the Project Help application (available on our website under Links & Forms). If you'd like to request a paper copy of the application, please contact our Customer Service Team via email at PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org or by calling (360) 357-8783 or toll-free (866) 357-8783. For other available resources, please visit our website at <http://www.thurstonpud.org/community-resources.htm>.

If you're interested in making a one-time or monthly donation, please call us at (866) 357-8783, or email PUDCustomerService@thurstonpud.org, or return the form below with any payments mailed to our office at Thurston PUD, 1230 Ruddell Road SE, Lacey, WA 98503.

I authorize Thurston PUD to bill my account \$ _____.

(Check one) One-time only
 Each month

This authorization shall remain in effect until the PUD receives written notification from me to terminate this agreement. I understand that if my account becomes past due, this authorization becomes invalid.

Name: _____ Account No.: _____

Service Address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____