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July 26, 2022

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MURPHY ADMINISTRATION ENCOURAGES NEW JERSEY RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES TO CONSERVE WATER

(22/P033) TRENTON – The Murphy Administration today asked residents and businesses to conserve water as the state continues to experience a persistent period of hot and dry weather.

The New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection is responsible for monitoring and protecting the state’s water supply to ensure ample clean, safe water for drinking and other needs. DEP’s Division of Water Supply and Geoscience has been closely monitoring the drier than usual conditions this summer.



While these conditions have not significantly impacted drinking water supply indicators statewide, persistently hot and dry conditions could adversely affect water supplies. It is important that residents and businesses take proactive steps to help moderate their use of water to help ensure ample supplies throughout the summer.

“Now is the time for New Jersey to be especially mindful of water usage and proactively moderate our consumption,” said Commissioner of Environmental Protection Shawn M. LaTourette. “Although our reservoirs and other indicators are healthy, persistent hot and dry weather coupled with the high water demands of

summer can quickly impact water supply. Simple steps, like reducing lawn and landscape watering, go a long way in preserving our water supplies and avoiding the necessity of significant restrictive measures.”

Current water demands are being met and New Jersey’s water systems are capable of handling periods of low precipitation. Reservoir levels are near long-term averages for this time of year and groundwater supplies are near normal, with the central and southern portions of the state tending to be drier. Local conditions can vary, so it is normal for individual water systems and municipalities to periodically request that their customers reduce water use.

The DEP will continue to monitor water supplies very closely and advise the public, local governments, and water systems as appropriate. For a DEP microsite on water conservation measures visit <https://dep.nj.gov/conservewater/>

The most up-to-date information about the status of New Jersey’s water supplies can be found at www.njdrought.org, where you can also find more water conservation tips for your community.

Other government and academic institutions also prepare drought-related indices and maps. One well-known example is the [US Drought Monitor](#), which defines drought more broadly than DEP. These other resources may suggest drought or pre-drought conditions are present before actual water supplies are technically determined to be below normal by DEP’s Division of Water Supply and Geoscience.



10 SIMPLE STEPS TO SAVE WATER THIS SUMMER

-  Water flowers and landscaping with water harvested in a rain barrel connected to a downspout. **1**
-  Use 30-50% less water with drip irrigation and micro-sprays compared to sprinklers. **2**
-  Only water when needed; in NJ most landscapes need only 1 inch of water per week. This often comes from dew and rainfall. **3**
-  If you have a pool purchase a water saving filter. **4**
-  Cover your pool when not in use to reduce evaporation rates. **5**
-  Avoid recreational toys that require a constant stream of water. **6**
-  Raise your lawnmower blade to at least 3 inches to promote deeper grass roots which hold water better. **7**
-  Use water from dehumidifiers and air conditioners to water your plants. **8**
-  Use native plants that need less water. **9**
-  Group plants together based on water needs. **10**

Summertime, means swimming pools, sprinkler jumping, and barbeques surrounding by manicured landscape. During the summer months, while water supplies are typically declining, water usage is increasing. In fact, water usage from winter to summer increases by approximately 30%. However, we can all do our part to reduce water usage by following these 10 simple tips.



Follow Commissioner LaTourette on Twitter and Instagram @shawnlatur and follow the DEP on Twitter @NewJerseyDEP, Facebook @newjerseydep, Instagram @nj.dep and LinkedIn @newjerseydep

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Last Update: July 26, 2020 