

Go Green, Save Blue

Being green puts a lot of focus on energy savings, but don't forget the importance of saving blue. The treatment and delivery of water takes a lot of energy, but the flip side is true, too. Did you know that the electrical power industry is second only to agriculture as the largest user of water in the United States? So the next time you want to go green, save blue and remember the water-energy connection.

Xeriscape Landscaping

Xeriscape (zeer-a-scape) is a creative approach to landscaping that includes the use of well-adapted plants, efficient irrigation, careful design, and proper maintenance to produce superior landscapes that save both water and energy. Xeriscape also creates or replaces habitat needed by wildlife and helps provide shade for people, homes and communities.

Rain Water Harvesting

Rain is a free, clean water source that we should all be putting to better use in our yards. With just 7 to 8 inches of annual precipitation, capturing rainwater from an average home rooftop can yield about 7,000 gallons each year. Arizona law currently provides a tax credit up to \$1,000 for the installation of a "rainwater harvesting" conservation system.

Graywater Systems

Graywater is wastewater from clothes washers, bathtubs, showers, laundry or bathroom sinks that is safely re-used for irrigating landscape plants, thereby reducing overall water use. Reuse of graywater can also reduce the load on septic tanks and leach fields. Arizona law currently provides a tax credit up to \$1,000 for the installation of a graywater conservation system.

Smartscape

Smartscape is a training program for nursery and landscape professionals designed to encourage consistent horticultural practices that are compatible with the Sonoran Desert. The program is endorsed by statewide landscape organizations and the University of Arizona. Plant selection, landscape design and water management are just a sampling of topics covered. Next time you need landscaping services, ask for a Smartscape-certified landscaper.

WaterSense®

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) developed the WaterSense program to promote water efficiency and to enhance the market for water-efficient products, programs and practices. WaterSense has developed a labeling program similar to the Energy Star program that helps consumers make water-efficient choices. For best performance and efficiency, look for the WaterSense mark on toilets, plumbing fixtures or whenever you're searching for landscape services.

GreenPlumbers®

GreenPlumbers is a national training and licensing program to advance sustainable plumbing practices that will use less energy, less water and fewer chemicals. Savings within new and existing buildings can be from efficient heating, cooling, and hot water systems, as well as from water-efficient fixtures and appliances, and by the harvesting and use of alternative water sources. Be sure to check with your power or water utility to see if rebates are available for the purchase of efficient products.

For more information on GreenPlumbers, tax credits, xeriscaping or any of the above water-saving topics, visit wateruseitwisely.com/arizona and click on "LOCAL AZ INFO" on the Arizona state flag banner, or call the WUIW hotline at 602-682-0622.

There are a number of ways to save water and they all start with you.

The Water - Use It Wisely campaign was launched in 1999 to promote an ongoing water conservation ethic among Arizona's rapidly growing population. Partners include the cities of Phoenix, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Glendale, Peoria, Tempe, Avondale, Surprise, Goodyear, and El Mirage. Additional partners include the Arizona Municipal Water Users Association, Global Water Resources, Arizona-American Water Company, and Salt River Project.

