

June Climate Changemaker Tips: Water Conservation

Friday, June 2nd

How are water conservation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions connected? When most of us think of slowing global warming, we think of reducing car exhaust and power plant emissions — limiting activities that involve combusting fossil fuels. But we rarely draw the connection between the production of energy and another important resource: water. Indeed, a significant amount of energy is used in pumping, treating, and delivering. Add more energy if you're heating the water for showering, laundry, or dishes, and even more in disposing of wastewater to make it safe and acceptable for reuse.

Reduce the amount of water you consume and waste whenever possible. Pursue simple water-saving actions:

- Don't let the water run while shaving, brushing teeth or soaping up in the shower.
- Run your dishwasher only with a full load. This can save 100 pounds of carbon dioxide and \$40 per year.
- Wash only full loads of clothing. This can save an average of 3,400 gallons of water a year, or more than 25 percent.

Friday June 9th

Conserving water goes beyond just saving water; it plays a vital role in conserving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHG's).

- When needing to replace faucets, showerheads or toilets, consider low-flow alternatives.
- See [EPA WaterSense](#) for more water saving tips.

Friday, June 16th

Summertime water use pushes Lincoln's delivery and treatment systems to capacity. As temperatures rise, so does demand. By using water efficiently and conserving water, we can keep water use within the system's capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

- Install "[water-smart](#)" landscapes
- Be smart when irrigating your lawn or landscape. Only water when needed, and do it during the coolest part of the day; early morning is best.
- Consider drip irrigation.
- Install rain barrels or other [rain harvesting](#) system

Friday June 23rd

Delivering water to Lincoln is becoming more and more expensive. It costs Lincoln Water System more today to supply and treat water than it did ten years ago. It will be even more expensive when Lincoln begins construction of its second water source along the Missouri River. Perhaps that investment can be delayed with aggressive water conservation and reuse efforts.

Annually water leaks in homes nationally amount to one trillion gallons of water. That's equivalent to the annual water use in 11 million homes. Did you know a [leaky toilet](#) can waste 200 gallons of water per day?. Here are some tips for [finding water leaks](#) in your home:

- Take a look at your water usage during a colder month, such as January or February. If a family of four exceeds 12,000 gallons per month, there are serious leaks.
- Check your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter changes at all, you probably have a leak.
- Identify toilet leaks by placing a drop of food coloring in the toilet tank. If any color shows up in the bowl after 10 minutes, you have a leak. (Be sure to flush immediately after the experiment to avoid staining the tank.)

Friday, June 30th

Although Lincoln has followed the national trend of reducing per capita water consumption (30% reduction since 1980), much more can be done. In order to achieve greater water conservation policy makers need to implement new strategies that incentivize residential and commercial water conservation and reuse. Contact your City Council representative and Mayor's office encouraging them to expand incentives to conserve and reuse water, such as:

- Determining the energy imbedded in each gallon of water used and educate the public accordingly
- Requiring or incentivizing [water efficient standards for new construction](#)
- Requiring or incentivizing [water efficient landscaping](#)
- Reducing [water wasting activities](#)

Sunday June Climate Changemaker Tips

June 4th: Conserve water: pursue simple water-saving actions.

June 11th: Conserve water: consider low-flow plumbing fixtures and fix water leaks.

June 18th: Conserve water in your landscapes.

June 25th: Contact your City Council representative and Mayor's office encouraging them to expand incentives to conserve and reuse water.