

The County Line

Employee Newsletter of Tarrant County

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Tarrant County and the EPA Launch *Water – Use it Wisely* Campaign

Imagine this: It is 6:00 a.m. on a Tuesday. You go into the bathroom to shower before work. You turn on the faucet and nothing comes out. Horribly inconvenient? Yes, and not too nice for your co-workers either. This scenario is a real possibility in our lifetime, if we take no action to conserve the water so essential to our health and comfort.

The scorching dry 100+ degree days of August are becoming more of an unpleasant distant memory. Two weeks of periodic rain showers have turned the banks of the Trinity green again. Yet many dead magnolias, and cypress trees stand in mute testimony to the current drought endured by much of North Texas. **Tarrant County Administration and Facilities** have partnered with the Environmental Protection Agency to promote awareness of water conservation with Tarrant County employees in County facilities.

“This summer's drought has underscored the need to use our water resources wisely. Ft. Worth and Tarrant County are leading the way in water conservation by decreasing water consumption on a gallons per capita basis by 25% between 1990 and 2001. We still have a ways to go to meet the state goal, but actions being taken by Tarrant County to use water wisely demonstrates their leadership throughout the metroplex in achieving this goal. Conserving water not only can meet most of the projected future water demands for this region but can also save taxpayers billions of dollars” according to **Miguel I. Flores, Director, Water Quality Protection Division U.S EPA, Region 6**, pictured right.

Part of the County effort will include strategically placed decals to remind employees and visitors to county restrooms and other facilities to conserve water use. Signs, posters and this article are all part of an effort to remind each of us about our responsibility to conserve and preserve this precious resource.

There are so many simple ways to save water. Here are a few:

- Keep your shower to under 5 minutes and save as much as 1000 gallons a month.
- Collect the water you use for rinsing produce and use it to water houseplants.
- Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running the tap for cold water. That way every drop goes down you and not the drain.
- Run your dishwasher and washing machine only when full and you could save 1000 gallons a month. Plug the bathtub before turning the water on and adjust the temperature.
- Do not run the faucet while brushing teeth or washing your face.
- Use commercial car washes that recycle water.
- Install a low flow showerhead and save up to 5000 gallons a week.
- Cook food in as little water as possible. This will also retain more of the nutrients.
- Start a compost pile.

