Water Conservation: Why Should We Care?

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Definition of Water Conservation

- Manage water as a sustainable resource
- Protect the water environment
- Meet future demand
Goals of Water Conservation

1. Availability of water for future generations.
2. Energy Conservation-electricity for water pumping, delivery & wastewater treatment
3. Conserving natural habitats by eliminating needs for dams & reservoirs
Water Conservation Programs

- Tiered Water Rates
- Outreach Programs for households, commercial & agricultural applications
- Lawn Watering & Car Wash Restrictions
- Installing natural landscaping
Tiered Water Rates

- Charging higher rates as usage increases
- Does this work?
- How does this effect the utility revenues?
- How do you explain this to your customers?
Charging Higher Rates as Usage Increases

• Very common in attempting to encourage customers to use less water
• What usage is considered excessive?
• Apply rates to all customer classes?
• Encourage installation of Irrigation meters?
Charging Higher Rates as Usage Increases

• Does this work?
• Maybe—depends on your customers and how much their water bills increase in subsequent years.
• Some want a green landscape at any cost
Charging Higher Rates as Usage Increases

- How does this effect utility revenues?
- If it works, it’s the same as having a wet year.
- Revenues will decrease if there is an emphasis on the higher tiers.
- The years of encouraging unlimited water usage should be over.
- As expenditures increase and volumes decrease, will need to closely monitor rates and increase as necessary.
Charging Higher Rates as Usage Increases

- How do you explain tiered (conservation) rates to your customers?
- Educate, Educate, Educate
  - Town Hall meetings.
  - Messages on utility bills
  - Brochures
Outreach Programs for Households

• Water-saving techniques for households include replacing toilets.
• Rainwater harvesting for outdoor plants.
• High efficiency clothes washers.
• Irrigation controllers that are weather-based.
• Swimming pool covers.
Outreach Programs for Business

- Waterless car washes
- Foot operated taps for commercial kitchens & bathrooms
- Water brooms to clean sidewalks (not hoses)
- Controllers for cooling towers
Outreach Programs for Agriculture

- Minimizing evaporation losses
- Using Overhead irrigation rather than flood irrigation.
- Drip irrigation/soaking hoses for residential gardening

How Your Organization Embraces Conservation

What is the right thing to do?