



Water & money saving guide

Choose what works for you:

No-cost conservation

- 💡 Wash full loads only in washing machines and dishwashers.
- 💡 Take short showers – 5 minutes or less.
 - Flush toilet only when necessary.
 - Collect the cold water in a bucket for watering plants when waiting for the shower water to get hot.
 - Turn off the faucet while doing the dishes and brushing your teeth.
 - Regularly check for leaks.
- Install the free City of Bellingham Water Conservation Kit items.
- Let your lawn go gold or go dormant.
- Follow the Voluntary Outdoor Watering Schedule.
- Water your lawn 1-inch per week or less in the mornings between 7-10 am to reduce evaporation loss.
- Mulch your plantings to retain moisture.



Low-cost conservation

- Fix your leaking faucets and toilets.
- 💡 Install a high-efficiency washing machine.
- Install high-efficiency toilets.
- 💡 Install low-flow faucet aerators on the kitchen and bathroom sinks.
- 💡 Install low-flow showerheads.
- 💡 Insulate hot water pipes to keep hot water hot.
- 💡 Consider installing a tankless hot water heater.
- Collect and store rainwater with a rain barrel or cistern.
- Install drip irrigation.
- Replace lawn with native and/or drought-tolerant plants.
- Use a watering hose timer and hose nozzle.
- Replace irrigation controllers with weather-based irrigation controllers.

💡 *These save energy, too!*

Get your FREE indoor water conservation kit

Visit City Hall or Public Works Operations
(360) 778-7700 | cob.org/conserve



Saving water: indoors



Install water & energy-efficient showerheads

A typical eight-minute shower uses 10 to 25 gallons of water and 3 kWh of energy. By reducing your shower time to five minutes, you could avoid paying for 3,000 gallons of water annually and reduce energy costs. **Free low-flow showerheads are available in the City's indoor water conservation kits.**



Install high-efficiency toilets

New and improved WaterSense-labeled models use less than 1.28 gallons per flush (gpf)—at least 60% less than older, less efficient toilets. Replace your older toilet and stop paying for nearly 10,000 gallons of water annually! **Rebates (up to \$100 per toilet) are available from the City when you participate in the Community Energy Challenge and replace a 1.6 gpf or greater toilet with a 1.28 gallon or less WaterSense toilet.**



Install a high-efficiency clothes washer

High-efficiency washing machines use less than 28 gallons of water per load—over 30% less than the average 41 gallons of water per load used in standard machines. Energy Star models will help you save energy too! Save 4,000 gallons of water annually. **A \$100 rebate from the City is available when you participate in the Community Energy Challenge and replace a standard clothes washer with an energy and water efficient model.**



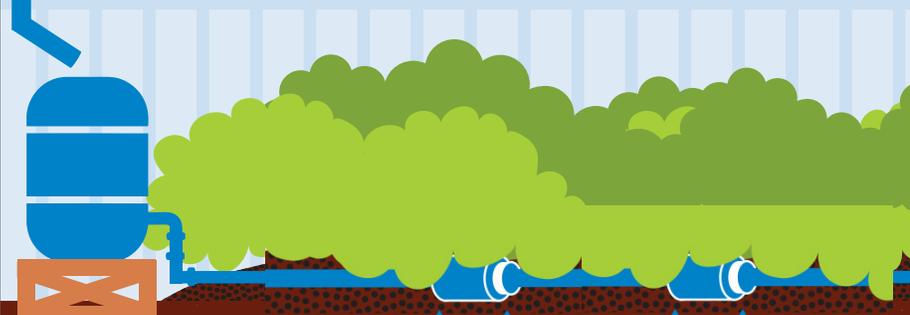
Find and fix leaks

On average, leaks account for nearly **11,000 gallons** of water wasted per home, per year—enough to fill a backyard swimming pool. Look, listen and test for leaks. Is the faucet dripping? Is the toilet hissing? If it does not stop, it needs to be fixed. Continue to observe fixtures for leaks! **Free toilet leak detection tablets are available in the City's indoor water conservation kits.**



Over 20,000 gallons in water savings per year when efficient fixtures are installed and leaks are fixed in the home.

(That's about how much water one person uses in a year!)



SAVE OUR WATER. SAVE YOUR MONEY.

and out



Install a rainwater collection system

Using rain barrels and/or tanks to collect water from your roof for outdoor use saves money on your metered water bill, conserves drinking water and reduces stormwater runoff. Systems can range from 55-gallon rain barrels to meet a portion of outdoor watering needs, to 2,500 gallon or larger tanks to meet all indoor and outdoor water needs.



Install drip irrigation

The most efficient irrigation method is drip irrigation. Drip systems are typically 90% efficient or higher. Efficient sprinkler systems are around 75-85% efficient. The ease of installation, the design and the low cost make it an ideal watering system and can help reduce disease problems in the yard and garden.



Install a water timer and hose nozzle or weather-based irrigation timer

Installing a water timer on your hose prevents overwatering, water waste and a costly water bill. Without an automatic shutoff nozzle, you may be paying for and wasting 50% or more water when washing a vehicle or hand-watering a lawn or landscape. Weather-based irrigation timers will automatically reduce the amount of water your landscape needs if it has recently rained or it is overcast and cool outside. **A \$75 rebate from the City is available when you Participate in the Community Energy Challenge and replace an existing irrigation controller with a weather-based controller.**



Landscape with native and/or drought tolerant plants

Northwest native plants provide many benefits. Once established, they are drought resistant, easy to care for and attractive! They need less water, provide food and shelter for wildlife and prevent slides and erosion. They have adapted over thousands of years to Northwest weather, soil, and topography.

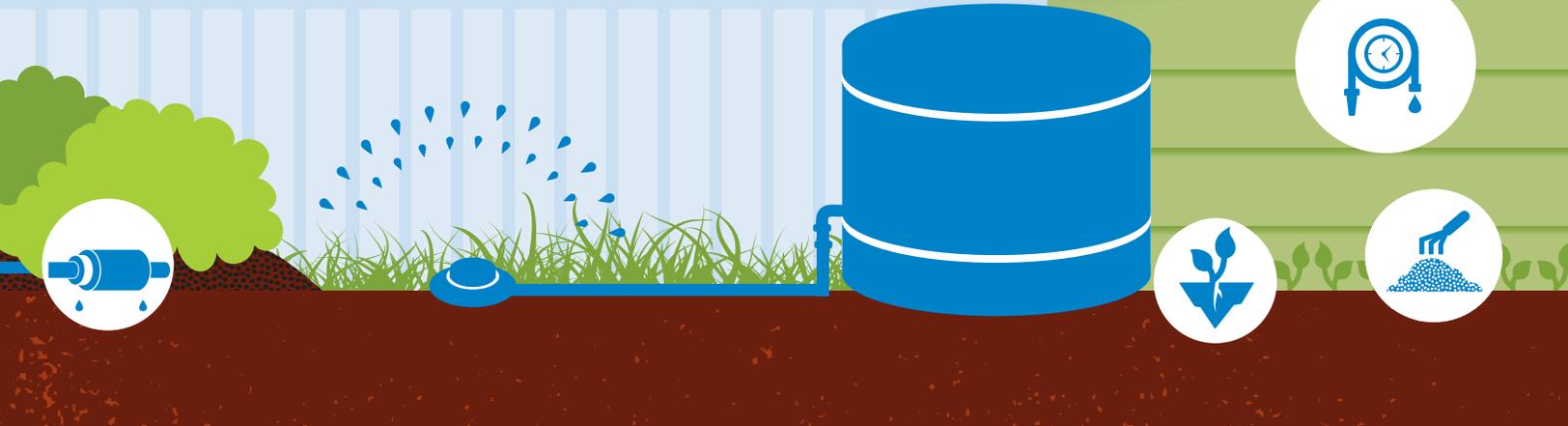


Mulch your landscape

Mulch holds water, moderates soil temperature and limits weed growth. It can also enhance landscape aesthetics.

Let your lawn get tan.

A typical American suburban lawn can use 10,000 gallons of supplemental water per year. About 80-90% of outdoor residential water use goes to watering plants, lawns and gardens.



Hoping for lower utility bills? Rebates can help make it happen!

To be eligible for any rebate(s), you must be a City of Bellingham water customer, participate in the Community Energy Challenge and retrofit a high-volume toilet, clothes washer and/or irrigation controller.

SAVE MONEY

with rebates from
the City of Bellingham
and local energy providers!

STEP 1. Sign up for a water assessment with the Community Energy Challenge (CEC)



Find out which water-guzzling fixtures qualify for rebates. For more information or to register, call 360-676-6099 or visit communityenergychallenge.org

STEP 2. Retrofit your high-volume toilet(s), clothes washer, and/or irrigation controller

Purchase and install a qualifying high-efficiency toilet, clothes washer and/or weather-based irrigation controller.



Get up to **\$100** in rebates for each WaterSense labeled high-efficiency toilet you retrofit. Qualifying toilet models can be found at: epa.gov/watersense/product-search



Get a **\$100** rebate for an ENERGY STAR high-efficiency clothes washer. Qualifying clothes washers can be found at: pse.com/rebates/appliances/fridge-and-clothes-washer-rebates



Get a **\$75** rebate for WaterSense labeled weather-based irrigation controller when upgrading an existing irrigation controller. Qualifying irrigation controllers can be found at: epa.gov/watersense/product-search

For more information, visit cob.org/rebate or call 360-778-7700.

Water and energy are connected: it takes water to produce energy, and energy to move water.

The City's Water Conservation Program has partnered with the Opportunity Council's Community Energy Challenge (CEC) program to offer water assessments in addition to the home energy assessments provided by CEC staff and partners. Incentives are available for both water- and energy-conserving fixtures, appliances and home improvements. Sign up today to lower your utility bills!



Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the Community Energy Challenge (CEC)?

The CEC is a program that provides participants a water and energy assessment of the home, quality information, a customized energy action plan detailing cost-effective measures, assistance with utility rebates, reliable contractors and quality assurance. The goal is to help you identify where energy and water savings can be found in your home, and the no-cost, low-cost, rebates and financing options available to do improvements.

Q: Who qualifies for the rebates?

City of Bellingham single-family residential and duplex water customers that participate in the Community Energy Challenge AND retrofit a high-volume toilet and/or clothes washer. New construction residential homes are not eligible.

Q: Can I receive more than one rebate?

Yes— Each water customer is eligible for the pre-tax purchase price (up to \$100) rebate per toilet, up to a \$100 rebate for a qualifying clothes washer, AND a \$75 rebate when you replace an existing irrigation controller with a weather-based controller. Rebates cover the purchase cost only. They do not cover installation, additional parts, labor charges, delivery fees or tax.

Q: Can I receive a rebate if I rent my home?

Yes, but the homeowner must sign the application. The owner should also indicate whether the rebate is to be paid to the renter or the owner.

Q: How do I know the flush volume of my old toilet?

- Newer toilets often have a stamp near the hinge of the toilet seat indicating flush volume.
- If there is no stamp on your toilet, you can estimate the capacity of your toilet based on when the toilet was installed, which is often when the house was built.
- If you believe the toilet was installed before 1980, a good usage estimate is 5 gallons per flush (gpf).
- If your home was built from 1980-1993, 3.5 gpf is a reasonable estimate.
- Toilets installed after 1994 are subject to updated plumbing codes, which mandate the use of low-flow toilets. These toilets typically use 1.6 gpf.

Q: How will I know if a fixture qualifies before I buy it?

To assure that the model you want to purchase qualifies, check the current list of certified toilet models and weather-based irrigation timers on the WaterSense website. For clothes washers check the Puget Sound Energy list on their website.

Q: Why does the WaterSense list have toilet tanks and bowls listed separately?

Many toilets are sold in two pieces. Toilet components must match the numbers on the WaterSense list exactly. No mixing and matching of tanks and bowls from the list is allowed as toilets have been tested in specific combinations for performance and efficiency.

Q: I want to make sure that I buy a toilet that performs well. Is there a way to find out more about models I am considering?

While all toilets certified under WaterSense must meet performance standards, more detailed information from independent testing is also available. Known as MaP testing, you can view test results at map-testing.com.

Q: How long is this rebate program available?

Rebates are first-come, first-served. Participation in the Community Energy Challenge and purchase and installation(s) of water-saving fixtures must be completed before program funds are depleted. It is up to the water customer to verify eligibility and program availability. We will post any changes on our website at cob.org/rebate and attempt to keep customers informed.

Q: How do I get an application?

Contact our partners at the Community Energy Challenge at 360-676-6099 or communityenergychallenge.org to sign up for a water assessment and obtain a rebate application.

Q: How long will it take after I submit my application to receive my rebate?

Eligible rebates are generally processed in 4-6 weeks.

Q: The application states that the City reserves the right to schedule an inspection. What does this mean?

City staff may schedule an inspection to ensure the toilet and/or clothes washer meets the rebate requirements and/or is installed in a COB water customer residence.



Additional resources to save water, money & energy

Indoors

- **WaterSense**

The City is an EPA WaterSense partner. An easy way to identify water-efficient products is to look for the WaterSense label on toilets, faucets, and showerheads. These products use less water, perform well and help save money.

epa.gov/watersense

- **MaP – Maximum Performance**

MaP is a free report that is updated monthly to provide flushing performance scores for more than 2,200 tank-type toilets. The MaP rating system has been endorsed by consumer groups, manufacturers, retailers, architects and WaterSense. If you want a toilet that performs well, you want a MaP-tested toilet.

map-testing.com

- **Energy Star**

When buying water-related household appliances, look for ones with the Energy Star rating. You can save money on your energy bill when you buy Energy Star high-efficiency fixtures that use hot water.

energystar.gov

Outdoors

- **Rainwater Harvesting**

The City supports the design and installation of active and passive rainwater harvesting systems. For more information and resources, see the City's website.

cob.org, search "rainwater harvesting"

- **Irrigation Tutorials**

Jess Stryker has prepared a series of detailed tutorials to instruct readers on all aspects of irrigation – including the use of pumps and drip irrigation guidelines.

irrigationtutorials.com

- **Irrigation Water Management Society**

The Irrigation Water Management Society (IWMS) is a non-profit organization committed to promoting the wise and efficient use of water in golf, landscape and agriculture. Visit the website to calculate how much irrigation your landscape needs based on the types of plantings and irrigation system you have.

iwms.org

- **Washington Native Plant Society**

The Native Plant Society provides a great source for native plant information and landscaping lists for western Washington.

wnps.org

