

Water Conservation

During the hot summer, there's nothing more refreshing than a cold glass of water. Even though North Carolina is not experiencing drought conditions, healthy freshwater ecosystems provide lots of natural services that we don't want to live without. Natural water purification, food for plants and animals, areas for recreation and flood control, are services that will be lost without proper management of our freshwater resources.

Water is NOT a renewable resource. So follow these simple tips to conserve water and protect and improve the quality of our streams, rivers, marshes, sounds and oceans:

- **Collect rainwater from your gutters** using barrels or containers and use this water for irrigating your garden.
- **Turn off running water** while washing your hands and brushing your teeth.
- **Use water-conserving appliances.** Consider switching to ultra-low flow toilets and other water-saving models when replacing older appliances. Check with your local water provider. Some water providers are offering toilet rebates.
- **Only wash** cars and other vehicles when necessary.
- **Install faucet aerators and high-efficiency showerheads** because this can save more than 5,400 gallons of water per year!
- **Discontinue irrigation** of lawns and ornamental plants. **Plant native** and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees.
- **Implement a water conservation awareness** and outreach program in your neighborhood.
- **Enjoy a cold drink** by keeping a pitcher of water in the refrigerator, not by running the cold-water faucet.

