

What a Difference a Year Makes!

By Randy Hellbusch, Circuit Rider

Although it is starting to get plenty dry around much of the state, most areas are in much better shape moisture wise than they were a year ago. Most water systems that I have visited with say they are not pumping near the water that they did at this point in time last summer. NeRWA assisted many systems with drought and conservation plans over the winter and early this spring in anticipation of another season of drought. Thankfully, so far this year anyhow, it appears much of that work hasn't been needed. However, being prepared is always a good thing.

It is somewhat unfortunate that it takes a drought event for people to become aware that there really isn't an endless supply of water and that we need to take care of what we have. Conserving water really isn't a difficult task. Common sense can go a long ways. Check household faucets for leaks. A faucet that leaks 15 drips per minute will waste 1,225 gallons per year. A leaky toilet can easily waste 6,000 gallons per month or more. Small items like this not only are a big waste environmentally, but also result in higher water bills. Another water saving technique is to keep a jug of water in the refrigerator. This will eliminate leaving the tap running until the water gets cold every time you want a drink.

Lawn watering can also be a major factor in higher water bills and can be attributed to huge water waste. If you like to keep your lawn green, water in the evening or early morning. The majority of lawns that do get watered are over watered. In this area of the U.S. only 1 inch of water per week is required to keep lawns green. Put out a rain gauge or a flat bottom container when you are watering and time it to see when it reaches 1 inch. You might be amazed at just how little water that takes compared to what you have been using.

NeRWA has other fact sheets and conservation tips. If we can be of any assistance give us a call. Bottom line: CONSERVE WATER. It is our greatest natural resource.