



Water Shortage Survival Package

On March 10, 2005, Governor Christine Gregoire authorized the Department of Ecology (DOE) to declare a drought emergency for the state of Washington. DOE immediately signed a declaration for a statewide drought emergency based on the extremely low snow pack in the mountains and record-low flows that are being seen in many rivers across the region.

“While water shortages won’t affect all areas of the state in precisely the same way, it seems very likely that all areas of our state will experience at least some level of drought this year,” Gregoire said. “We need to start taking action now, and all of us need to be part of the solution.”

All Northwest utilities rely on hydropower for some portion of their electrical supply. When water conditions are average or better, the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the other utilities sell excess energy in surplus markets and use the revenue to create reserves to help hold down rates for Pacific Northwest customers. Since surplus sales are down due to low water, revenues are falling short of projections. Most likely this summer Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative (NVEC) will pay more for electricity from BPA through surcharges.

Sixty percent of the Northwest’s electricity is produced by the hydroelectric system, making regional energy consumers extremely susceptible to rainfall and snow pack in comparison to the rest of the nation. “Just to put it in contrast, less than 15 percent of our country’s electricity is produced by hydroelectricity,” said BPA administrator Steve Wright. “Reducing electricity use this spring and summer will not only lower your bill now, it can also help to keep rates lower than they might otherwise be in the future,” said Wright.

NVEC has put together a kit to help its member participate in this effort to cut back on water usage and use energy efficiently in preparation for the drought this summer. In the short term, conservation will help you save money on your electric bill. In the long-term conservation decreases the demand for power, which will help keep rates from rising.

This *Water Shortage Survival Package* contains several tips we hope you will find useful. Included are tips for conserving water and energy and additional resources to seek out for more information or to purchase water conservation kits. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the NVEC office at (509) 634-4571 or by email at info@nvec.org.

Additional Resources:

For information on ways you can conserve water and save energy visit the web sites below:

American Water Works Association www.awwa.org/Advocacy/learn/conserve

United State Department of Energy - Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy www.eere.energy.gov

Water Use It Wisely www.wateruseitwisely.com

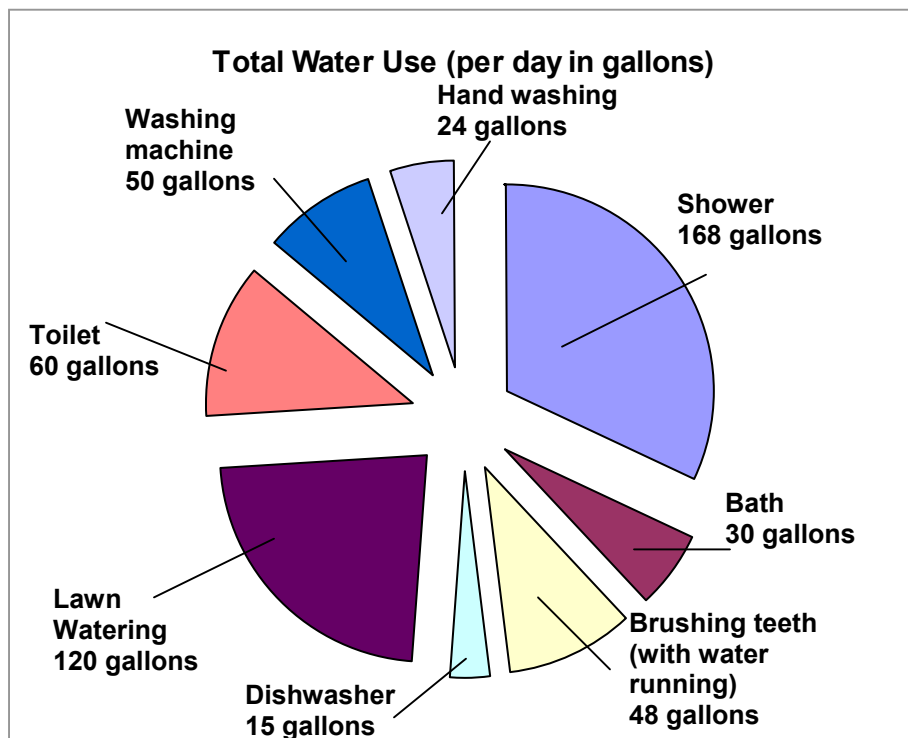
Bonneville Power Administration www.bpa.gov

Nespelem Valley Electric Cooperative www.nvec.org

International Institute for Energy Conservation www.iiec.org

Gov. Chris Gregoire of Washington:

"I support the Bonneville Power Administration and the utilities in their efforts to save energy and water. Conservation is always a good idea, especially when we are facing a drought."



Based on water usage in an average 4-person home

Stores that sell CFL bulbs:

Do It Best Hardware

416 Midway
Grand Coulee, WA 99133
(509) 633-1090

Loepp Furniture & Appliance

PO Box 8
Grand Coulee, WA 99133
(509) 633-0430

Hopkins

18 Riverside Dr
Omak, WA 98841
(509) 674-5859

Omak Ace

317 South Main St.
Omak, WA 98841
(509) 826-0604

Sears

636 Okoma Drive
Omak, WA 98841
(509) 826-1730

Wal-Mart

900 Engh Road
Omak, WA 98841

Central Washington Grain Growers

204 SE Bell St.
Wilbur, WA 99185
(509) 647-5511

Hardings Hardware & Auto Parts

85 N Clark
Republic, WA 99166
(509) 775-3368

Compliments of Energy Star®
Store Locator



TIPS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Cutting back on outside residential watering, which uses the most household water, is a good place to start, but there are many ways we can conserve inside the home.

- Toilet leaks are the most common household water waster. Listen for dripping faucets and toilets that flush themselves. To test for a silent leak, drop a little food coloring into the tank. **DO NOT FLUSH.** Wait for about 20 minutes, if the food coloring appears in the toilet bowl, your toilet has a silent leak.
- Run your washing machine only when full.
- Keep your shower to under five minutes.
- Install low-volume toilets. Or if your toilet was installed prior to 1980, place a toilet dam or bottle filled with water in your toilet tank. Don't displace so much water that you need to double flush.
- Install a low-flow showerhead. Standard showerheads dispense 5-15 gallons of water per minute.
- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth and shaving and save four gallons a minute.
- Make sure the toilet flapper doesn't stick open after flushing.
- Even during the hottest part of summer, a healthy lawn needs no more than one inch of water per week (including rainfall). To measure this, place empty tuna cans or similar sized containers around your lawn while your sprinkler is running.
- The best time to water your lawn or garden is late in the evening or early in the morning when the evaporation rate is lowest.

USING THESE TIPS, A FAMILY OF FOUR CAN AVOID
WASTING OVER **9,000 GALLONS** OF WATER A MONTH!



TIPS FOR USING ENERGY EFFICIENTLY

Heating/Cooling

- Seal leaks in heating and air-conditioning ducts.
- Clean or change furnace and air-conditioning filters every two months.
- If your home has a fireplace, keep the damper closed when you're not using it and use a glass screen to minimize the heat loss.
- Caulk and weather-strip windows and doors.
- Installing skirts on mobile homes helps prevent heat loss.

Lighting

- Turn off lights that are not needed, like in unused rooms. Use natural daylight as much as possible.
- Replace incandescent light bulbs with energy-efficient compact fluorescent lights (CFLs).
- Use timers or motion detectors on lamps that are used for security lighting.

In the House

- When buying appliances, look at the yellow Energy Guide label and buy only energy-efficient appliances.
- Set your water heater thermostat to 120 degrees Fahrenheit. **It's the law.** If your water heater was purchased before 1992, wrap it with an insulated blanket.
- Use "air dry" and other power-saving switches if your dishwasher has them. Line dry clothes whenever possible.
- Use your microwave oven in place of your range oven when possible.
- Pressure cookers use much less energy than normal pots and pans.