



Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Fall 2016

Drought Level I Declared

Everyone's last memory of drought involves: water cops, usage bans, brown landscapes, and daily projections of how many days of supply remain. It has been dry and according to the National Weather Service this has been the second hottest summer in Georgia's recorded history. We had more than 75 days over 90 degrees compared with the 30 year average of 43.8 days. In fact looking at the rainfall all over the state, Cobb has one of the greatest deficits. We are behind by over 6-inches. According to the US Drought Monitor, most of the county, except for a small corner in the northwest part of the county and a small sliver in the southeast corner are in D3 (Extreme Drought), most of metro Atlanta is in D2 (Severe Drought). The drought monitor is updated every Thursday. If you are following Tappy Turtle on Facebook or Twitter you can check every Thursday afternoon when we link to the drought monitor update for our #ThirstyThursday post.

North Georgia, and certainly Cobb County, is experiencing a drought. Currently, the Climate Projection Center indicates drought will persist in this area and possibly intensify. In response to these conditions and the anticipated continuation of dry weather, on Friday, September 9, 2016, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division issued a Level I Drought Declaration. Level I does not change the outdoor watering hours. Citizens can water daily between 4PM-10AM. It does require that Cobb Water create a public education campaign and encourage our customers to conserve water.

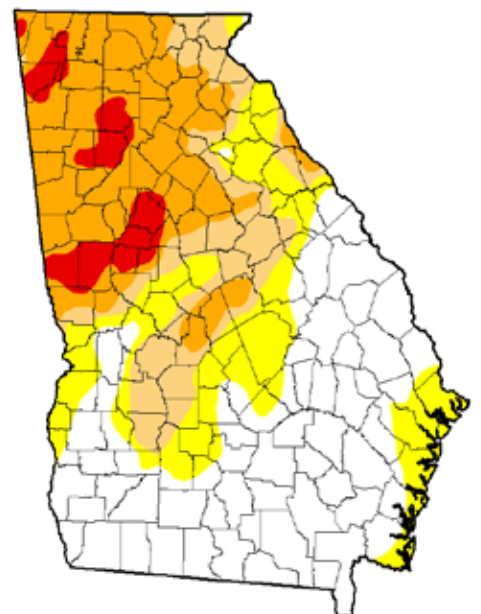
The good news for Georgia, and especially for Cobb is, that despite the high temperatures and dry spring and summer, our supply has been sufficient to meet our needs. This can be attributed to our customers' adoption of conservation and efficiency practices and principles. Though we have seen higher water use this summer, it has not been near what we saw in 2006 and 2007 before the total ban was implemented. That does not mean we don't have to watch the drought and as directed by EPD educate our citizens about drought and water conservation. In Cobb the groundwork has been laid. Our customers need to continue their commitment to water conservation and take advantage of the programs and materials we have through the water efficiency office.

Upcoming Events

For a full schedule of Cobb Water Efficiency Programs or to schedule a civic or school presentation visit <http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffEvents>, email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org or call 770-419-6244

Shower Better Month - October 2016

Cleaning and moving water takes energy and producing energy takes water. Opportunities to conserve electricity or water help extend both resources. Heating water in our homes uses more energy than all other household appliances combined. For simple ways to save water visit <http://tinyurl.com/CobbEfficiency>.



Education Update

The 2016-17 school year is shaping up to be our busiest yet and we have already seen more than 1600 Cobb County students. We are excitedly visiting a number of new schools this year and introducing some new programs. *How Water Works*, a lesson for upper elementary and middle schools students focuses on the vital infrastructure that helps provide our communities with clean water and sanitation. Participants from Acworth Elementary's after school program were amazed to see what a complex journey our water takes as it travels through the man-made water cycle.

Another new addition this year is our Fourth Grade Series. The series puts together three of our most popular fourth grade programs: *Incredible Journey*, *Filtration Station*, and *Animals and Epiphytes*. Spaced out throughout the school year, each program teaches the students about a different aspect of water and targets a different educational standard, from the water cycle to drinking water treatment to how Georgia's animals adapt in times of drought. The goal of the series is to give students a deeper understanding of the value and importance of water and conserving our resources. By the end of the year we will have a number of junior water experts on our hands!

If you would like to schedule a lesson for your students, please contact Amy Warnock at (770) 419-6374 or amy.warnock@cobbcounty.org

Green School Update

Now is the time to start assembling your team of Green Teachers for the year and submit your Green School application. You can find the application, activity log, lesson request form, and any other information you might need about the program on our Green School page at www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm

If you're looking for a way to step up your Green School game, consider applying for our Green Innovation Award. Find more information on the Green School page under Awards.

Acworth Elementary School's After School Science Kids learn about where their water comes from and the infrastructure we depend on to deliver it.



Shallowford Falls Fourth Graders learn about the Water Cycle by taking an Incredible Journey





Tips from Tappy

Save Water, Energy, and Money While You Shower Better

If you're celebrating Energy Action Month this October, you might be interested to know that your shower could be sending energy, water, and money down the drain each day. Showering accounts for nearly 17 percent of our residential indoor water use, or about 30 gallons per household per day. Energy is also required to heat that water, so every drop you save can result in energy and utility bill savings.

This October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Cobb County Water System are also promoting Shower Better Month to encourage homeowners to take one simple action: replace an old showerhead with a WaterSense labeled model. Whether you are remodeling your bathroom or just looking for ways to save energy, water, and money, look for the WaterSense label on showerheads that use 20 percent less water and are independently certified to provide the spray force and water coverage for a satisfying shower.

Cobb County Water System will be giving out free WaterSense labeled showerheads that save the average family more than \$70 in annual energy and water costs and 2,900 gallons of water per year, or the amount it takes to wash 70 loads of laundry.

Just email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org. With less energy required to heat your shower water, your family can also save enough electricity to run the television for more than a year, or to power your entire home for 13 days!

You can save even more water, energy and money during the WaterSense and Energy Star sales tax holiday from September 30-October 2, 2016. This is an easy way to help save water and energy and do your part to help lessen the impact of the drought on our water resources.

Visit <https://www3.epa.gov/watersense/products/showerheads.html> for more information and a list of WaterSense labeled showerheads, or like WaterSense on Facebook to learn more water-saving tips: www.facebook.com/EPAWaterSense.

As 53 counties in North Georgia, including Cobb County, face a continuing drought, using the water we have wisely is essential.

Fall Planting: Fall is the preferred time to plant. The cooler temperatures mean the plants need less water to become established and the roots have a chance to grow deeply before the hot spring and summer.

Soil Preparation: With our clay and clay/loam soils, amending the first 12 inches of soil before planting creates healthier, more drought tolerant plants. Have your soil tested at Cobb's Extension Office. Call 770-528-4070 for more information.

Use a Rake and Broom: It may be tempting to just hose down the the deck and driveway to get rid of leaves and fall debris. A hose can use a significant amount of water. Use a rake to corral those leaves and a broom to rid the porch of cobbwebs and dirt.

Winterize at End of Fall: As the temperatures drop there are some simple winterization steps to help you have a water efficient winter. Shut down your irrigation system completely. Make sure the system is fully drained then turn it off until Spring. This is a great time to wrap pipes, outdoor faucets and get a water heater blanket. These simple activities can shorten the wait for hot water and prevent pipe breaks when temperatures dip below freezing. Locate your water shutoff for the house. You will be prepared to minimize water loss in the event of a plumbing failure.

Learn more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/ccwsOutdooreff>

Shorten your shower
 **1 minute**
 ...save **550**
 gallons per year

Switch your showerhead
 ...save
2,900
 gallons
 per year.

 **ShowerBetter** 

 **epa.gov/watersense**

Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall this summer has been below average and coupled with very high temperatures. Both Cobb and north Georgia are currently in severe or extreme drought status. Allatoona's current level is 839 feet. The streamflow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are less than 25% of the normal streamflow. Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> to keep up to date on the current drought conditions.

Declared Water Restrictions Status: Level 1

For Irrigation – No watering between 10AM-4PM (No day of the week restrictions)

Visit: <http://tinyurl.com/CCWSwaterrules> for more information on outdoor watering rules.

Rain Fall JUN-AUG

JUN –2.14-Inches

JUL –4.18– Inches

AUG –2.28- Inches

2016 YTD – 24.1

JAN-AUG AVG – 33.83

SOIL MOISTURE-(-6.1)

October 11, 2016, is the deadline for submitting art for waterSmart waterArt at Big Shanty Art Station.

<http://www.watersmart.net/action/program2>



Follow waterSmartSM on Facebook for more tips!

www.facebook.com/waterSmartPrograms