



**Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Winter 2015/16**

## “Water” Your Resolutions?

December into January is a great time to take stock and resolve to make changes with the coming new year. What better way to start 2016 than by making small changes that help to save Cobb County’s valuable water sources? There are so many simple things citizens can do to learn more about their water resources and help to preserve and protect them. After all, this is all the water we are ever going to have right here, right now.

Here are simple actions that can be undertaken each month of 2016. It may not seem like one person or family can make much of a difference. Imagine if every one of Cobb Water’s 650,000 customers adopted these actions each month. Pretty soon we would have saved and protected millions of gallons of water.

**January 2016** – Start by resolving to save in 2016. Take the pledge to be more water-efficient in 2016. Visit EPA WaterSense and take their water saving pledge: <http://www3.epa.gov/watersense/pledge/index.html>

**February 2016** – Be true blue this Valentine’s Day. Take your Valentine to one of the lodging facilities participating in the *WaterSense h2otel Challenge*. Make sure they save water by having a towel reuse option and have installed WaterSense labeled high efficiency fixtures.

**March 2016** - March 14-20 is *Fix a Leak Week*. Be a leak detective. Take a walk through your home searching for leaks. This presentation can help you on your hunt: [http://water.cobbcountyga.gov/MediaFiles/Water\\_Leaks\\_files/v3\\_document.htm](http://water.cobbcountyga.gov/MediaFiles/Water_Leaks_files/v3_document.htm)

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## Upcoming Events

For information or to schedule a presentation visit [www.cobbwater.org](http://www.cobbwater.org), email [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org), or call the Water Efficiency Office at 770-419-6244

### **11th Annual Allatoona Ally and Friends Coloring Book Launch Party**

*Thursday, January 28th, 2016*

**Time:** 4pm-6pm

**Where:** The Mable House Arts Center

### **Third Annual Water Drop Dash 5K and Water Festival**

*Saturday, March 19, 2016*

**Time:** 8am-10:30am

**Where:** Chattahoochee Nature Center

### **Fix a Leak Week**

*March 14-20, 2016*

The USEPA WaterSense program has declared the second week of March *Fix a Leak Week* to inform citizens about the impact of water leaks, as well as how to detect and fix leaks. Throughout the month, the Water Efficiency Program will have activities and projects highlighting this important topic. Residents can receive free leak dye tabs and materials to change out leaking fixtures by e-mailing [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) or calling 770-419-6244. Educational information will also be available on the website and in the Cobb Water System customer service lobby.

It's been a busy semester for the Water Efficiency Program. Fifth graders from Russell Elementary learned how to measure stream flows during a partner program with Cobb PARKS. Lewis Elementary fourth graders learned how our water goes from source to sink with the *Day in the Life of Water* program. Students from Hillgrove High discovered the complexity of resource management by debating some tough *Water Dilemmas*. In total, we have reached more than 3,700 students this fall with outreach programs.

## The Tappy Project

Our mini mascot, Tappy Turtle, visited 20 first grade classrooms to help students learn about the importance of clean, safe drinking water and how to conserve it. Each class spent a week with Tappy learning about water and how they can help save it at home and at school. Learn more about Tappy's adventures and see his weekly tips and trivia questions by following him on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/slowtheflow](http://www.facebook.com/slowtheflow) or on Twitter [@TappyTurtle](https://twitter.com/TappyTurtle).

To learn more about any of our programs or to schedule a visit, please email [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) or call (770) 419-6374.

## Model Water Tower Competition

In October, Cobb County Water System partnered with Marietta Water to hold the first Cobb-Marietta Model Water Tower Competition, hosted by Cooper Middle School. Students from Cooper Middle School and Marietta Middle School learned about engineering concepts by building working models of water towers. The students' towers were weighed, measured, and tested for hydraulic efficiency, and each group was interviewed by the judges. The students had a chance to meet water professionals from all over the metro area and to learn about some of the careers available in the field.

## Green School Update

The Green School program for 2015/16 is off and running. 15 schools have already submitted applications, and 26 teachers have already been certified as Green Teachers for the year. Don't forget that the Green School partners offer outreach programs that will help to qualify you as a Green Teacher. You can learn more about the program, submit your Activity Log, or request a lesson from a Green School partner here: <http://www.cobbwater.org/greenschool.htm>



*Kemp Elementary 1st graders read a book with Tappy Turtle during his week-long stay in their classroom - more photos on Tappy's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/slowtheflow](http://www.facebook.com/slowtheflow)*



*Team Mike "Wow"zowski, made up of MMS 7th graders Faith Kumi and Annelise Lloyd, won 1st Place at the Cobb-Marietta Model Water Tower Competition with their Monsters Inc. themed tower*

## ...Resolutions continued

**April 2016** - April is Earth Month. Why not celebrate the element that separates Earth from other planets? An early spring picnic along the Chattahoochee River or camping at Allatoona Lake is a great way to appreciate the sources of our drinking water. When we know where our water comes from we want to protect it.

**May 2016** - Before you turn your irrigation system on, give it a sprinkler spruce up! Check the heads, direct them to plant materials, and repair any leaks. To make sure your system is in tune, hire a professional who has completed a WaterSense certified training program: [http://www3.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/irrigation\\_professionals.html](http://www3.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/irrigation_professionals.html)

**June 2016** - The days are heating up! Make sure you are not irrigating in the heat of the day. It is best to water early in the morning, ideally at dewfall. The ground is moist and readily absorbs water and there is less loss to evaporation and wind drift.

**July 2016** - Celebrate *Smart Irrigation Month* by replacing your old timer with a WaterSense labeled smart timer: <http://www3.epa.gov/watersense/products/controltech.html>

**August 2016** - Start school by walking your watershed. Learn what watershed you are a part of and then walk the area. Identify potential pollutants that could be washed into the waterway and organize a clean up or hand out some educational materials in your neighborhood to encourage everyone to protect their waterway.

**September 2016** - It is a good time to take stock of your water and energy use. Take this virtual home audit and find your water footprint. The water efficiency office has free indoor and outdoor kits to help you save water. <http://www.home-water-works.org/>

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# Tappy's Water Saving Tips

Winter is here, and while we might not be watering our lawns or maintaining much of a garden, there are still ways to cut back on our water usage in the frosty months!

**Drip your faucets** when temperatures drop below freezing. Run a small stream of hot and cold water. The trickle should feel lukewarm to ensure water is moving through all pipes. Moving water is less susceptible to freezing. A small trickle will never waste as much water as a burst pipe. You can catch the water in a pot and use it to water your house plants.

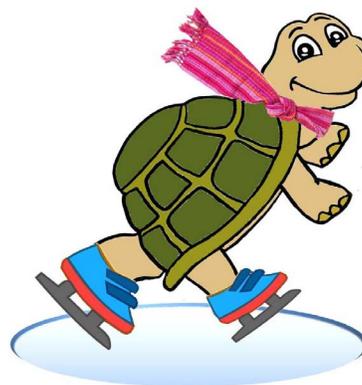
**Winterize your pipes.** Preventing burst pipes and leaks is vital when it comes to conserving water in winter. Make sure outdoor pipes are wrapped so that they stay warmer than the air and are less likely to freeze or burst.

**Insulate pipes or faucets in unheated areas.** If you have pipes in the attic, garage or crawl space under the house, wrap the water pipes before temperatures plummet. Hardware or building supply stores will have good pipe wrapping materials available.

**An insulation blanket** can make some water heaters more energy efficient. If your older water heater is located in unconditioned space (a garage, basement, crawl space or attic) install a heavy blanket — R-11 or better. The higher the “R” value, the thicker the blanket and the more insulating horsepower.

**Check for leaks after a thaw.** The changes in temperature between night and day during the winter cause pipes to expand and contract. This added stress means you're more likely to develop a leak over the winter. Get a plumber to check your lines for leaks after your pipes take all of that abuse!

**Locate your shutoff valve.** Despite our best efforts, sometimes a pipe will still burst in the winter. The faster you can cut off that water, the less goes to waste. Your valve may be on your side of the water meter, in the attic, the basement, or the crawl space. You can save hundreds of gallons by knowing how to shut your water off quickly!



...Resolutions continued

**October 2016** – Shower Better in October with a free WaterSense labeled shower head. E-mail [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org) to get yours and start saving drops and watts.

**November 2016** - Give thanks for the men and women who work to provide you clean drinking water and safe sanitation. Help them enjoy the holiday by keeping cooking grease out of the sewer system. Instead of rinsing it down the sink, let the grease cool, scrape the pan, and discard the grease in the trash.

**December 2016** – Give the gift of water savings! Look for WaterSense or Energy Star labeled products and appliances. The recipient can save water and money all year long!

For more information on saving water all year long, visit our website: <http://www.cobbwater.org/efficiency.htm>

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WINTER 2015/16

## Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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To sign up for this newsletter or to be removed from this mailing list, submit an email to [waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org](mailto:waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org). Be sure to indicate “Sign Me Up” or “Remove Me from Your List” in the subject line.

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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

This fall was wetter than normal, following a drier summer. There were frequent low volume rain events early in the fall and a couple of high volume events in the early part of November. These events coupled with the cooler temperatures reduced evapotranspiration and left a surplus of moisture in the soil. Allatoona’s current elevation is 833.19 feet, winter drawdown continues. The streamflow in most local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are in the normal streamflow range, a few are below 25% of normal flow.

**Water Restrictions Status:** Non-Drought

For irrigation: No watering between 10AM-4PM (no day of the week restrictions)

Other outdoor uses (car washing, pressure washing, etc.) have no limits in non-drought status.

Rain Fall September-November:

SEPT –3.33 inches  
OCT –4.19 inches  
NOV –7.06 inches  
2015 YTD - 41.63 inches  
JAN-NOV AVG – 45.81 inches  
SOIL MOISTURE-10.22 inches

**waterSmart will be accepting entries in early 2016 for the H2O in HD video contest!**

Learn more at:  
<http://watersmart.net/action/program4>



Follow waterSmart<sup>SM</sup> on Facebook for more tips!

[www.facebook.com/waterSmartPrograms](http://www.facebook.com/waterSmartPrograms)