



Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Spring 2018

TOILET REBATE PROGRAM EXPANDED TO COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS

In January of this year the Cobb County Board of Commissioners approved expansion of the very successful toilet rebate program to commercial customers. A commercial customer is defined as any account that is not billed as a single family residence. This includes master-metered town home and condo communities, schools, restaurants, office parks, apartments, etc. Any property built in 1992 or earlier and receiving a water bill from Cobb County Water System can take advantage of our toilet rebate program.

The Commercial program provides a \$50.00 rebate per toilet up to 100 toilets per property, a cap of \$5,000.00. The toilets must be EPA WaterSense labeled toilets, using 1.28 gallons of water per flush or less. The applicant must provide proof of purchase and installation of the new toilets as well as proof that the property was built in 1992 or earlier.

The expansion of the rebate program to commercial customers is consistent with our goals to expand water efficiency programs to all customers. Residential customers have been updating their plumbing fixtures and taking advantage of our efficiency initiatives and we are excited to offer some of these opportunities to commercial customers.

A commercial property can only apply once per property for the rebate. The property needs to complete all of their toilet installations before submitting their application. Information on the commercial toilet rebate program and some frequently asked questions can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/CommercialRebate>. For more information email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org.

We look forward to working with our commercial customers to help them conserve water and save money. It makes WaterSense.



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

Water Drop Dash 5K/Fun Run and Water Festival - Saturday, March 24, 2018, 8AM Chattahoochee Nature Center - 9135 Wileo Rd. Roswell, GA 30075

H2O in HD Pizza and a Premiere - Thursday, April 19, 2018, 5:30 PM-7 PM Cobb County Water Lab Training Room 662 South Cobb Dr. Marietta, GA 30060

Fix A Leak Week March 19-25, 2018



Education Update

Our education programs started the second semester: judging science fairs, teaching about global water issues, discussing how stream flow impacts river management, and talking about how plants and animals adapt to drought. This winter, we had the pleasure of judging several science fairs at Cobb Elementary Schools. We were amazed, interviewing our next generation of scientists, from kindergarten to 5th grade. Many of the projects exceeded our expectations. Snow was definitely on the student scientists' minds, it might have been due to Cobb's record setting snowfall of 10-inches. We had a great time when interacting with the curious students, using science to answer their burning questions. We hope to judge more competitions in the future.



We are wrapping up the fourth-grade series this spring and closing it out with one of our favorite lessons, Animals and Epiphytes. We had five schools participate in the series this year, with their fourth graders learning all about the water cycle, water treatment, and water conservation. Keep an eye out this summer when we open up the sign up process for next year's 4th grade series.



This year we are preparing to participate in Fix a Leak Week with the EPA's WaterSense Program on March 19th- 25th. Every year we send out Leak Detective Kits to schools who want their students to learn how to be Leak Detectives. These kits include activities for the kids to learn how to track their water usage and how to find sneaky leaks.

We have openings in our schedule for late spring to squeeze in a little more water education before the summer. If you are interested in scheduling a lesson for your students or would like more information about our program, please contact Kathy Nguyen at (770) 419-6374 or Kathy.Nguyen@cobbcounty.org.

Green School Update

Green School is winding up another successful year. The teacher activity logs are rolling in to our office. We already have 26 schools that have reached at least the Green School Level. Please submit your activity logs before Friday, March 30, 2018, by 5 PM. We have enjoyed learning about all the environmental activities you have undertaken. Don't forget, if you have done a big environmental project this year submit for the Green Innovation Award. All information on Green School can be found at www.cobbcounty.org/greenschool.

13th Annual Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge

The Cobb County Water System and the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) congratulate the 12 Cobb County elementary school students selected as this year's winners of the 13th Annual Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge.

Cobb County fourth and fifth grade students were invited to create coloring book illustrations depicting Lake Allatoona's own ambassador, Allatoona Ally, and her friend from Cobb Water, Tappy Turtle, saving water. The challenge received nearly 600 entries from 11 participating schools.

The coloring book, Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle, featuring the top 12 entries will be distributed throughout the community and available for free download at www.cobbcounty.org/watersmart.

2018 Winners

Emma Holland	Due West ES
Kendall Boone	Bullard ES
Kaitlyn Price	Frey ES
Nisha Banerjee	Mountainview ES
Mireya Garcia	Green Acres ES
Lily Allen	Sope Creek ES
Ava Junger	King Springs ES
Saige Demeritte	Big Shanty ES
Sophie Ward	Harmony Leland ES
Rayana Williams	Big Shanty ES
Katelyn Kloss	Lewis ES
Di'Annie Quinones	Varner ES

The illustration by Emma Holland at Due West Elementary was selected as the cover art for the 13th Anniversary Edition of the "Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle" coloring book.

"Every year it is exciting to see Cobb students teaching other children about saving water," says Kathy Nguyen, senior project manager at Cobb County Water System. "We are very proud of all those that participated while spreading this important message."



waterSmart Allatoona Ally Winners with Cobb School Board Vice-Chair, David Chastain and Laura LaQuaglia, Cobb County Visual Arts Supervisor



March 19-25, 2018, is the USEPA WaterSense program's Fix a Leak Week. This is when we focus on finding and fixing household leaks.

- To check for leaks compare your monthly water use. Check the 13 month consumption graph on your water bill for any months that spike above your normal use.
- Check your water meter to help detect small leaks. Make sure all water using devices are off, including the ice maker. Take a reading from the meter. Wait 2 hours and take another reading. If they are not exactly the same or if the triangle on the meter is moving, you have a leak.
- Check toilets for leaks by dropping a few drops of food coloring into the tank. Wait 15 minutes without flushing, check the bowl. If any of the color seeped into the bowl you have a leak. It is probably a flapper.
- Leaky faucets can waste more water than you think. Most can be repaired by replacing the aerator. The water efficiency office has free aerators. Just email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org
- Invisible leaks can sometimes be found by checking outside for unusually bright green patches of grass or looking for darkly colored patches, that are cool to the touch on the wall.
- Check for leaks after the first 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 when it warms up.
- Your irrigation system should be checked for leaks each spring. The cold winter can cause damage to the irrigation system lines.

Welcome To Our Team

The Water Efficiency Team is happy to welcome our new team member, Tyler Schwartz. Tyler is a freshman at Kennesaw State University and is working with the Water Efficiency team as an intern. Tyler loves the outdoors and especially enjoys the local streams and rivers.

He enjoys canoing and kayaking and loves, "just everything about being outside!" Tyler joined our team in January of this year.

Tyler is helping the water efficiency program by preparing materials, assisting with outreach events, and helping out in Cobb County classrooms to encourage students to save water for the environment.



Tyler Schwartz gives saving water the 'thumbs up.'

Recently, he acted as the cameraman and production assistant for our Fix a Leak Week video mystery, *The Case of the Creeping Water Bill*. The Video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/4BPsLcTeBDM>. Be sure to say hello to Tyler if you see him and Tappy out and about.

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Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

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Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall late in the winter has been above average. Cobb is in normal conditions on the US Drought Monitor. Allatoona's current level is 833 feet, normal for this time of year. The stream flow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are flowing at or above normal ranges, and Lake Lanier has refilled. Cobb Water depends on releases from Lanier into the Chattahoochee River. **The Georgia Environmental Protection Division has lifted the Drought Level 1 declaration.** The efficient use of our water resources is always important. Please find information about how to use water wisely at www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency

Declared Water Restrictions Status: Non-Drought Status

For Irrigation – Outdoor irrigation is permitted daily before 10 AM and after 4 PM. Visit: www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions for more information on outdoor watering rules.

Rainfall Dec. 17- Feb. 2018

DEC – 2.62-inches
JAN – 2.31-inches
FEB – 6.47-inches

2017 – 49.96-Inches
ANNUAL AVG. - 49.71-Inches
JAN-FEB AVG – 8.87-Inches
SOIL MOISTURE-(12.58-Inches)

To keep up with our water resources and efficiency programs and take advantage of our contests please follow Tappy Turtle on Twitter and Facebook



We are accepting entries for the waterSmart High School H2O in HD Video Contest. Show us how you value water. For more info email gwen.baldwin@cobbcounty.org