Camden Conserves

An informational program provided by the CamdenSMART Initiative:

Camden City
Camden County Municipal Utilities Authority
NJ DEP
Coopers Ferry Partnership
New Jersey Tree Foundation
Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Water Resources Program
Why change the way we do things?

Your actions are part of a bigger movement towards *Sustainable Living*:

- Protecting water resources
- Saving money and energy
- Reducing water consumption
What is Sustainability?

“Actions and practices that meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

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Actions and practices for **SUSTAINABLE LIVING**:

- Protecting water resources
- Saving money and energy
- Reducing water consumption
While NJ is a “water-rich” state receiving over 40 inches of rainfall each year:

- New Jersey is also the most densely populated state in the country
- The average New Jersey resident uses **100** gallons of water per day
- Residents engaging in outdoor watering & irrigation increase their average water use up to **185** gallons per day in the summer months
Protecting Water Resources

[Map of New Jersey with color-coded areas indicating water resources, including towns like Paterson, Newark, Trenton, Camden, Vineland, and Atlantic City.}

Legend:
- Inches
  - More than 48
  - 46 to 48
  - 44 to 46
  - Less than 44
- Centimeters
  - More than 122
  - 117 to 122
  - 112 to 117
  - Less than 112

North
Data from New Jersey water withdrawals, transfers, and discharges by watershed management area, 1990-1999, NJ USGS
Protecting Water Resources

• According to EPA, 47% of assessed waters do not meet water quality standards…
  – 20,000 individual river segments
  – 400,000 miles of rivers and shorelines
  – 9 million acres of lakes

• Bacteria, nutrients, sediment are main pollutants

• 218 million people live within 10 miles of these polluted waters!
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Actions and practices for **SUSTAINABLE LIVING**:

- Protecting water resources
- **Saving money and energy**
- Reducing water consumption
Saving Money and Energy

Using less water requires less energy and can save you money
Saving Money and Energy

• A family of four could save as much as $75 a year just by turning off the tap while brushing their teeth in the morning and at night.
• By fixing a leaky toilet a family could save $210 more.
• If a family of four switched from taking daily baths to short five minute showers they would save up to $490 in just one year.
• A family could save as much as 25,000 gallons and up to $162 a month just by running an automatic irrigation system two times a week instead of four.

SOURCE: www.njwatersavers.rutgers.edu
Saving Money and Energy

• Extends the life and reliability of public and private infrastructure
• Prevents or postpones the need to fund and build expanded public works systems
• Helps prevent water pollution and combined sewer overflows (CSOs)
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Actions and practices for **SUSTAINABLE LIVING**:

- Protecting water resources
- Saving money and energy
- Reducing water consumption
Reducing Water Consumption...Indoors

- Fix household leaks
- Wash full loads of laundry and dishes
- Turn water off while brushing teeth
- Take shorter showers – 5 minutes or less
- Avoid using running water to thaw frozen foods
Reducing Water Consumption...Outdoors

- Water only when needed (1”/ week)
- Water in the early or late hours of the day
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose
- Wash vehicles at a car wash that recycles water
Other Ways to Reduce Water Use

**Outdoor**
- Adjust watering as conditions change
- Use native plants
- Mulch around plants
- Water early in the morning

**Indoor**
- Look for EPA WaterSense logo
- WaterSense toilets (20% less water)
- Energy efficient dishwashers and washing machines (50% less water)
- WaterSense showerheads (40% less water)
- Faucet aerators
More Ways to Reduce Water Use...

- Disconnect Downspouts
- Capture Rain Water Runoff
- Install a Rain Barrel!
Reduce Rain Water Runoff

Disconnect your downspout by installing a rain barrel

REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF RUNOFF ENTERING STORM SEWERS
How much water can you harvest from one rooftop?

Using a roof area of 800 ft$^2$ (40’ x 20’)

1" rainfall event = 500 gallons
42" rainfall per year = 20,950 gallons
Reduce Rain Water Runoff
Reduce Rain Water Runoff
Downspout Disconnection/Redirection
Use of Rain Barrel Water

- Use water within a week or two to discourage algal growth
- Use water before next rain is expected or connect to soaker hose in garden
Use of Rain Barrel Water

In addition to watering shrubs, trees & gardens:

- Wash the dog, car or muddy feet
- Use in toilet tanks
- Use in birdbaths
So Many Barrels to Choose From…
Where to Get Barrels

Food grade, 55 gallon, High Density Polyethylene Plastic (HDPE)

Sources:
- New- Barrel and drum manufacturers online or phonebook
- Used- internet, barrel recyclers, local industries
  examples:
  - Pickling companies
  - Beverage companies
  - Car washers
- County Build A Rain Barrel Workshops

Cleaning
- Used barrels should be washed with soap and triple rinsed.
Help us all live more sustainably!
Other Ways You Can Help

Plant Trees in Camden

Attend a Rain Barrel Workshop

Install a Rain Garden
For more information

• Visit www.CamdenSmart.com to find out about Camden City efforts and events
• Visit www.epa.gov/watersense for information on water saving technologies
• Visit www.njwatersavers.rutgers.edu for information on water conservation practices