

Water Conservation: Little Steps, Big Impact

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During a time of drought there are simple actions every household can take to conserve their water use. Gutters that funnel rainwater into catchment systems and rain barrels are important ways to use stormwater to irrigate trees and landscapes. The County is working to create a free online Green Stormwater Infrastructure Guide that will show steps landowners can take to create raingardens and other measures for capturing stormwater supporting aquifer recharge and it benefits your yard's soil.

Inside, water wasting fixtures can be switched out: WaterSense certified shower heads and toilets use substantially less water and Energy Star dishwashers and washers can save both water and energy. Another way to recycle laundry water is to install a laundry to landscape graywater system, a fairly easy process to set up with your plumber or DIY.

When making your landscape decisions xeriscaping with native plants and trees rather than hardscaping with rocks, is a vital practice for conservation. Native vegetation is much more resilient, cooling, fire resistant and drought tolerant than non-native plants. Strive for 70% native plants in your landscape keeping the four pillars in mind as detailed in the 4Nature Santa Fe resource pages and you will give nature the highest chance for surviving and thriving in our uniquely arid high elevation environment. Every drop matters as drought and aridification force us to rethink and prioritize conservation and strategically manage the extremely limited natural resource that supports all life, including ours.