

Enhanced Conservation Incentives Underscore SNWA's Commitment to Water Conservation in 2018

It may be hard to believe, but Southern Nevada's top water user isn't a Strip hotel. It's not a manufacturing facility, or a shopping center or even a water park. It's grass—and this year, the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) implemented enhancements to the community's most successful water conservation program—the Water Smart Landscapes Rebate program (WSL), including increased incentives to give you more cash in exchange for your grass.

Continuing community-participation in its most popular and effective conservation effort, the SNWA this year increased the financial incentives of its Water Smart Landscapes Rebate program (WSL) to \$3 for every square foot of grass replaced with water-efficient landscaping (up to 10,000 square feet).

To stimulate participation from homeowner's associations, apartment complexes, and other large turf-grass customers, the SNWA also boosted the WSL rebate to \$1.50 for any additional square footage beyond the 10,000 square-foot threshold, to a maximum of \$500,000 for large conversion projects. Moving forward, the SNWA is working with municipal agencies in Southern Nevada to prohibit decorative turf installation, such as grass at neighborhood entrances and roundabouts.

Since 1999, local residents and businesses have converted more than 187 million square feet of grass to water-efficient landscapes, saving more than 119 billion gallons of water. Outdoor water use, primarily landscape irrigation, account for about 60 percent of the community's use; unlike water used indoors, it cannot be recycled and returned to Lake Mead, the source of 90 percent of our region's water.

With an eye toward promoting more efficient use of water in the commercial and multi-family home sectors, the SNWA also boosted provisions of its Water Efficient Technologies (WET) Program. Businesses that incorporate water-saving appliances, fixtures, and other efficiency devices into their operations can receive a financial payback through the WET program to help off-set costs for making that water-smart investment. Businesses can select from a pre-approved menu of water saving technologies that have proven water savings, or propose new water-efficient technologies to meet specific business needs. WET participants recognize that being water-smart is good for their business, and since 2001, local businesses have saved more than 14 billion gallons of water through the WET program.

For more information about the WSL and WET programs, including criteria and to enroll, visit **snwa.com**.

Unveiling another tool designed to help conserve the community's water, the Las Vegas Valley Water District (LVVWD) this year launched an on-line water-waste reporting form that makes it fast and easy to report water waste in the district's service area using a mobile device, tablet, or desktop computer.

Using the water waste reporting form on lvvwd.com, customers can upload photos of water waste, use their phone's GPS/location services to pinpoint the area, choose from various infraction/violation types, and receive a response email with details on the investigation process. The City of Henderson includes a similar water-waste reporting function in its city services app. Customers in the LVVWD's service area who do not have access to a computer or smartphone can call (702) 822-8571 to report water waste.

Meanwhile, the Springs Preserve—with its museums, galleries, botanical garden, hiking and biking trails, attractions, live animal exhibits, historical sites, and seasonal and cultural events—continued to maintain its status as one of Southern Nevada's most popular family-friendly attractions. This year, the Springs Preserve drew more than 280,000 visitors, including more than 66,000 attendees at a dozen family-friendly events and hosting more than 36,000 local students on school field trips. The New year promises more fun for residents and visitors alike, with a new live animal show, Extreme Parrots, weekends starting in January, and a new traveling show National Geographic Earth Explorers opening Feb. 4. Find out more at springspreserve.org.