

Using Water Wisely at Work

All state agencies are mandated to reduce water consumption, and our DENR Mission makes it even more imperative that we conserve and protect this non-renewable natural resource. Executive Order No. 26, signed in 2002, directs all of us to discontinue “non-essential” water use and to develop and implement long-term, financially feasible conservation measures. Included in the state’s Utility Savings Initiative is the goal to reduce water consumption by 10%.



We all need water to survive, but healthy freshwater ecosystems also provide lots of natural services that we don't want to live without. Natural water purification, food for plants and animals, areas for recreation, and flood control are services that will be lost without proper management of our freshwater resources.

DENR agencies can set the example by following these simple tips at work to conserve water and protect and improve the quality of our streams, rivers, marshes, sounds, and ultimately the ocean:

- Reduce or eliminate** once-through cooling water
- Turn off air handling** and cooling towers at nights and on weekends
- Attach shut-off nozzles** to all hand held hoses
- Sweep** instead of using a hose to clean, or employ other dry cleanup techniques
- Turn off** water-using equipment when not in use
- Reduce water flow rates** at lavatory faucets and at tank-less toilet valves
- Only wash** cars and other vehicles when **necessary**
- Install faucet aerators**, low flow showerheads and other plumbing equipment
- Discontinue irrigation** of lawns and ornamental plants; **plant native** and/or drought-tolerant grasses, ground covers, shrubs and trees
- Implement a water conservation awareness** and outreach program in your building

Visit the web for more information:

<http://www.sustainablenc.org/water.htm>

<http://enr.state.nc.us/DSWC/index.html>

http://www.ncwater.org/Water_Supply_Planning/Water_Conservation/

<http://www.p2pays.org/>

The DENR Sustainability Team is comprised of representatives from 27 DENR divisions, offices and programs. Its mission is “to raise employee awareness of the consequences of our actions and make DENR a model of sustainability.” More information on DENR Sustainability is available at <http://www.sustainablenc.org/DENR/>. Information on sustainability in buildings and lands in North Carolina is available on the State Sustainability team ‘NC Project Green’ web site <http://www.sustainablenc.org/>.