During a Drought...
Use your WaterSense®

Every year drought strikes some part of the country. If your area is suffering through a drought, there are actions you can take to help your community by reducing your water use.

1. **Follow the rules.** If your community has taken the step of restricting water use, it is because they need to make sure that water is available for critical community needs such as fire-fighting, health care facilities, and local businesses.

2. **Check for leaks.** Make sure your faucets, toilets, and shower fixtures are not leaking. Also, be sure to check your sprinkler system. If you find leaks, fix them. Leaks can waste hundreds of gallons a month. More information about finding and fixing leaks is available at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/howto.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/howto.html).

3. **Consider an upgrade.** Think about upgrading to more efficient fixtures. WaterSense labeled bathroom fixtures use at least 20% less water than standard fixtures. Information about WaterSense labeled products is available at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/products).

4. **Reuse your water.** Instead of letting it go down the drain, collect water in a bucket from your dishwashing or shower and use it to water container plants that may be wilting. More water saving tips are available at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/be_the_change.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/our_water/be_the_change.html).

5. **Let it brown.** It is natural for grass to go dormant or turn brown during the hot summer months. Outdoor water use to keep it green places a great strain on local water supplies. Reduce your use in your yard and, in the future, consider plants that need less water and which are better suited to your local climate. More information about water smart landscaping is available at [http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping.html](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/outdoor/landscaping.html).

Remember, when the rains return, your water-saving ways don’t have to go away. Avoiding water-wasting habits will help you save water, energy, and money. And it will help you and your community to be ready when drought returns.