



Cobb County Water System - Water Efficiency Program News - Fall 2017

Cobb County Water Restrictions Eased

On September 7, 2017, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division eased watering restrictions in 55 counties. The 12 counties that were in a Level 2 drought response, including Cobb, were lowered to a Level 1 response. The remaining counties were removed from drought response Level 1. The plentiful rains this spring and summer helped to recharge our streams and rivers. In spite of the overall improvement, Lake Lanier remains more than 5-feet below normal. We depend upon releases from Lanier to feed the Chattahoochee River, the source of approximately 60 percent of our drinking water. Responsible stewardship of our limited water resources is always important, whether we are in a drought or not. As Cobb depends upon Lanier, we urge our citizens to continue their conservation practices.

At Level 1 outdoor irrigation is permitted daily before 10 AM and after 4 PM. Most plants and grass require about one-inch of water and it is most beneficial if it is applied once weekly through deep watering. This practice not only saves water, it makes plants heartier and stronger. One-inch includes natural rainfall, use a rain gauge to measure rainfall and use irrigation as needed to supplement natural rainfall. Check plants in the cooler part of the day, early morning or late evening. If the plant is wilted or greyish in color than the plant may need water. To take the guess work out of watering, email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org to receive a free soil moisture sensor.

As school starts back, the eased restrictions also allow charity car washes to resume. At Level 1 there are no restrictions on at home pressure washing or car washing. To save water when washing cars use a bucket and sponge. Also make sure your hose has a shutoff nozzle when rinsing the car.

All fountains can now resume operation. We are happy to return to normal activities but as always we encourage our customers to undertake these activities as efficiently as possible. Wasting water increases water bills and stresses our water resources. Cobb County Water System has many programs and materials to help citizens save water. Visit www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency for more information on how to save water.

Upcoming Events

For a full schedule of Cobb Water Efficiency Programs or to schedule a civic or school presentation visit <http://tinyurl.com/WaterEffEvents>, email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org or call 770-419-6244

waterSmart waterArt Reception -
Thursday, November 16, 2017, 6PM-7:30PM.
Big Shanty Art Station - 2050 Kennesaw Due West Rd. Kennesaw, GA

Adventures with Allatoona Ally and Tappy Turtle Coloring Book Autograph Party
Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 5PM-7PM
Cobb County Water System's Lab Training Room - 662 South Cobb Dr. Marietta, GA

How Much Will a Bathroom Makeover With WaterSense Save?

Water:
7,000 gallons annually
Enough to wash 6 months' worth of laundry



Electricity:
200 kilowatt hours annually
Enough to run a refrigerator for 2 months



Money:
\$80 in utility bills annually
Fixtures pay for themselves in as little as 2 years



Education Update

Cobb's Water Efficiency Team wants to welcome our newest member, Chrissy Rubel. Chrissy comes to us from Kennesaw State University where she majored in Theatre and minored in Environmental Science. While at KSU she honed her environmental education skills and passion by developing the Green Ambassador's Program and founding KSU's Eco Owls Sustainability Club. She was the first student to win the Robert Paul Sustainability Award at Kennesaw State. Chrissy was already around Cobb sharing her passion for water resources as an active volunteer for the Water Efficiency Program. We are excited to have Chrissy join us and look forward to the new energy and enthusiasm she will bring. You will see her in classrooms and tackling other projects aimed at helping our youth and adult citizens preserve our precious water resources. Help us welcome Chrissy!



We're Back

The School Year has started off with a splash! Cobb's Water Efficiency Team has already visited 16 schools. All five of the slots for our Fourth Grade Series are filled and we have been to four of the 5 participating schools. We have also been busy scheduling programs for the rest of the school year.

This year our goal is to reach as many schools as possible with programming, so we are trying to limit the number of programs we offer per school. It is possible for us to do more than one program but we would ask that it encompass different grades. We are keeping a list of teachers and schools that want additional programs and we will be offering any available time we have left toward the end of the semester. If you are interested in having a school program and have not already reached out to us or confirmed your dates and lessons please contact Kathy Nguyen at kathy.nguyen@cobbcounty.org or 770-419-6244.

For our Kindergarten and First Grade classes we have transitioned the popular Water Cycle Puppets lesson to a teacher directed lesson. You will receive Tappy, his water activity backpack, the lesson plan, and all the materials for the program. We will deliver Tappy and his water activity backpack at the beginning of the week and pick him up at the end of the week. To reserve Tappy please contact Chrissy Rubel at christine.rubel@cobbcounty.org or 770-419-6374.

Green School Update

Green School is also off and running this year. We have received several Green School applications, lesson requests, and we have even started receiving activity logs already. It is great to see the dedication of our schools to educate the future stewards of the environment. Remember that we build our mailing list from the Green School Applications. This is how we identify the school coordinators so you can receive updates from us on the status of the school's progress. If you have not submitted your schools application please do so as soon as possible. We want to make sure you are receiving our updates. The application and program information can be found on our Green School Pages www.cobbcounty.org/greenschool.

We are always excited when we can share the achievements of one of our Green Schools. This year Green Acres Elementary School became the first school in the Southeast to be awarded a Real School Garden Grant. The grant will cover the design and installation of the garden as well as an additional 2 year commitment to work with the teachers on developing hands on garden-based, outdoor curriculum. Cobb's Water Efficiency Team was there to see the Green Acres students present their garden designs. We were blown away. We can't wait to work with the school on innovative water saving garden-based lessons! Way to go Gators!



Green Acres Principal and Teachers with Student Garden Designers

waterSmart Contests Open!

8th Annual waterArt Calendar Contest

waterSmart waterArt is an artistic competition created for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade students in Cobb County. This unique competition allows students to answer the question, “What is the value of water?” through their own creative expression. Entries will be displayed at an art show Nov. 2 – 16 with the calendar release reception on the 16th at the Art Station Big Shanty in Kennesaw. [To get more information about this year’s contest and to download the application click here.](#)

****Please note, all entries are due on Tuesday, October 10, 2017**

13th Annual Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge

waterSmart invites Cobb County 4th and 5th grade students to draw their best picture of Ally – Lake Allatoona’s friendly fish mascot – and Tappy the Turtle – Cobb Water Efficiency’s mascot – conserving water! 12 winning drawings based on creativity, artistic ability and water saving tips, will be published in the 2018 Adventures with Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Coloring Book.

[To download information and an entry form, please click here: Allatoona Ally & Tappy Turtle Artist Challenge Entry Form](#)

****Please note, all entries are due on Tuesday, December 5, 2017**

Looking for inspiration? Be sure to visit Tappy Turtle’s [Facebook Page](#) for pictures of last year’s event or download the 2017 coloring book.

For questions or additional information on both contests, please email Gwen.Baldwin@cobbcounty.org or call 770-419-6303.



Allatoona and Tappy Coloring Book Winners



waterArt Calendar Contest Winners



As the season turns to fall, it is time to focus indoors. It makes WaterSense to take advantage of our programs to build a better bathroom.

- Are you wasting water when you brush your teeth or shave? If you don’t have one of our high efficiency aerators you probably are. Email waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org to receive a free water saving aerator.
- As it gets colder a free WaterSense labeled showerhead can help you save water while the hot shower warms you up.
- Are you still using an old water wasting toilet? Take advantage of Cobb’s toilet rebate program and replace old inefficient toilets with a new high efficiency WaterSense labeled toilet. If you are a single family customer in a home built in 1992 or earlier you can get up to three \$100.00 rebates, that appear as credits on the water bill.
- While enjoying your new better bathroom, be sure to shut the water off when brushing your teeth or use a cup of water to rinse.
- Make sure you aren’t losing water through a leaky diverter valve. When you switch from tub faucet to shower. If your tub faucet is pouring water you have a leaking diverter valve that may be wasting water.
- At this time of year, we want to do a good job of washing our hands. Turn the faucet off while you soap up, sing a verse of Happy Birthday while you scrub, and then turn the water back on to rinse. You will stay healthier, save water, and celebrate everyday!
- Remember your toilet is not a trashcan. Don’t flush wipes (even if they say flushable). Wipes Clog Pipes! Flushing them wastes water.

Back to School List:

Water Conservation Edition



1. Reusable Water Bottle



2. Shorter Showers



3. Clean (water-friendly) Laundry

4. Reusable Lunch Containers



5. Clothes Donations

6. WaterSense Games



Water Source Climate Update

Rainfall this Summer has been above normal, while temperatures have been unusually high. Cobb is no longer in drought status on the US Drought Monitor. Allatoona's current level is 839.17 feet. The streamflow in local water bodies that feed the Chattahoochee River are flowing within normal ranges, but Lake Lanier remains more than 5 feet below normal. Cobb Water depends on releases from Lanier into the Chattahoochee River. Because of improving conditions, GA EPD eased watering restrictions on September 7, 2017. The efficient use of our water resources is always important. Please find information about how to use water wisely at www.cobbcounty.org/waterefficiency

Declared Water Restrictions Status: Level 1 Drought Response

For Irrigation – Outdoor irrigation is permitted daily before 10 AM and after 4 PM. Visit: www.cobbcounty.org/outdoorwateringrestrictions for more information on outdoor watering rules.

Rainfall June-Aug 2017

JUNE-6.53- Inches
 JULY -4.32- Inches
 AUG. -5.05- Inches

 2017 YTD – 36.66
 JAN-AUG AVG – 33.83
 SOIL MOISTURE-(20.28-Inches)

Cobb County Water System Water Efficiency Program

Contact Us
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 Marietta, Georgia 30060
waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org
 770.419. 6244

Staff
 Kathy Nguyen
 Gwen Baldwin
 Chrissy Rubel

For more information:
www.cobbwater.org



To sign up for this newsletter or to be removed from this mailing list, submit an email to waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org. Be sure to indicate "Sign Me Up" or "Remove Me from Your List" in the subject line.

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This is an official publication of the Cobb County Water System, an agency of the Cobb County Board of Commissioners.

To keep up with our water resources and efficiency programs and take advantage of our contests please follow Tappy Turtle on Twitter and Facebook



Let us help you Shower Better and begin building a better bathroom with a free WaterSense Showerhead. Just request one by emailing waterefficiency@cobbcounty.org