

Let's Get Ready for Water Meters!

Making small changes in our daily habits will help us adjust to water meters. Depending on which water meter the City chooses, there are features available that will help us all conserve more water. Plus, the City will be able to alert you if we detect continuous and intermittent leaks at your home. Our conservation staff can come to your home to help you find leaks you need to repair. Call us for an appointment: 621-5480.



Volunteer Meter Program

Late last year, about 70 people throughout the City volunteered to have a meter installed in their home. This program is helping to identify water usage characteristics in the City of Fresno and lend opportunities on how to save water.

Water Meter Status Update

The City of Fresno is on track to meet our state mandated requirement to be fully converted to Water Meters by 2013.

Homes with older meters will eventually receive a new meter, so that these residences will also benefit from the newer features. We are pleased to report that all old meters will be recycled.

The new meters will be read either by a fixed-read system, or mobile system. The Fresno City Council will be making the final decision on the meter brand and features.

The Water Division has been installing meter boxes throughout the City to house new meters. If you've had a meter box installed, you may be among the first to receive a new meter.

Starting in 2010, the City will begin incrementally charging a "volumetric" rate for water instead of a "flat" rate for homes equipped with a new water meter. This means that residents with a new water meter will pay for the amount of water they use.

Among the Water Meter Volunteer Participants, we've discovered:

- Leaks have been detected in 31% of the households.
- Water usage increased 208% between the months of February and April.
- However, seven households actually decreased their water usage during those same months.
- People who stated that they have "water-wise" landscaping used less water.

City of
FRESNO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES



Providing Life's Essential Services

If you have questions about the meter installation process, please call: 621-5326.



Here's the story of one Fresno family. Since January, the City has been reading their meter and helping them monitor their water usage.

Water Conservation Message Hits Home With Fresno Family

Lisa Baldis is committed to water conservation and truly values our community's precious natural resource. She volunteered for the City of Fresno's

water meter study and is fixing water leaks inside and outside of her house that were identified by the City of Fresno Water Division. Lisa also began incorporating drought-resistant plants into her yard after attending a Water-Wise Plant Exchange sponsored by the City of Fresno and a host of community partners. Here is Lisa's story:

"Before water meters become a reality for everyone in Fresno we thought we should do all we could to make our home more water efficient. The water meter volunteer study has been great in helping us reach that goal. Someone from the City checked for leaks and found one in our toilet. It was an easy fix and we took care of it on the spot. He also found a little bit of a leak in our sprinklers which just required a little adjustment.

We are a family of six and the water meter study program has kept us very mindful of our water usage. I try to be very careful with things like washing dishes and we're getting the kids to take shorter showers.

In May, I received a postcard in the mail about the Water-Wise Plant Exchange and because it was close to my house I decided to go. I was expecting to just see a bunch of succulents and cacti, but there was so much more. There was a lot of information and so many beautiful plants; everything I needed to get a start on a more water-efficient garden. And it was all free!

I brought some clippings and left with a lot of gardening tips and plants that are thriving in my yard today. Everyone there was very helpful, very friendly and always asking if there was anything else they could do to help.

I know we're moving to water meters and it was so nice to see I can still have a beautiful looking garden that I can enjoy and still conserve water. It doesn't have to be rocks and cacti, and I know that now."

Did you know?

Between 60 and 70% of all summertime water usage is for outdoor landscaping! Planting a water-wise garden can help conserve water. Call us for a FREE brochure with a list of "Fresno-friendly" plants and water-saving tips for your yard.

Meet Water Meter Volunteer and Fresno Resident, Lisa Baldis

Lisa's Household Stats:

Number of people
in family **6**

Lot size **10,000+ sq. ft.**

Landscaping **Average**

Residential Water Usage by Month:

February **6,099 gal.**

March **12,754 gal.**

April **16,476 gal.**

May **15,787 gal.**

Average Water Use Per Person in Gallons Per Day:

Nationwide **80 to 100**

Statewide **212**

Clovis **243**

Fresno **300**

