



## Water Savings Successes in Utah

*Every effort to save water, big and small, helps stretch Utah's water supply. Below are a few water-saving examples that are underway. For more information or to schedule an interview, please reach out to the listed media contacts.*

**Central Utah Water Conservancy District** has invested \$500,000 into the Flip Your Strip & [Localscapes](#) Rewards programs. *Media Contact: Rick Maloy, 801-529-7850*

**Layton** residents have used 94.9 million fewer gallons of water this year compared to last year. Layton residents are the first in Weber Basin Water Conservancy District's service area to be eligible for the new turf removal rebate. *Media Contact: Steve Garside, 801-336-3822*

**Herriman City** saved more than 30 million gallons of water in May 2021 compared to May 2020 even though 2021 was hotter and drier and they added more connections in 2021. *Media Contact: Tami Moody, 385-312-4212*

**Intermountain Healthcare** has enacted new watering guidelines in Utah and Idaho, and all facilities are currently working on irrigation upgrades to see where additional water can be saved. *Media Contact: Glen Beeby, 206-948-4849*

**Sandy City** has saved over 234 million gallons of water this year, that's equivalent to 359 Olympic Swimming Pools. *Media Contact: Evelyn Everton, 801-580-0686*

**The University of Utah** has seen an 18% drop in total water usage since 2018, and this year the university has committed \$500,000 to combat the drought and expedite water efficiency. *Media Contact: Chris Nelson, 801-953-3843*

**St. George** has identified nearly 500,000 square feet of underutilized grass that will be removed and replaced with water-efficient landscaping. *Media Contact: Karry Rathje, 435-668-5622*

**Washington County's** major municipalities have adopted a time-of-day watering ordinance and are working collectively to adopt a more aggressive landscape ordinance to restrict turf in commercial and residential developments. *Media Contact: Karry Rathje, 435-668-5622*

**Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District's** Flip Your Strip program participation is up 160% over this time last year. *Media Contact: Linda Townes, 801-859-3522*

**Salt Lake City Public Utilities** has seen about a 20% decrease in water demand this year compared to last three year average and has implemented mandatory restrictions for government and institutional facilities, with voluntary restrictions for residential and commercial properties. *Media Contact: Lindsey Nikola, 385-707-5205*

## **Governor's focus areas for fast-tracking water conservation and planning**

### **Statewide installation of secondary water meters**

About one-third of residential customers use secondary or untreated water. The majority of these connections are unmetered. And you can't manage what you don't measure. Areas that have installed secondary meters have seen a reduction in water use by about 20-30%. Installing secondary meters yields the biggest bang for the buck when you look at the amount of water saved compared to the cost of the meters. Over the last few years, legislation has been passed to require meters on new secondary connections and \$2 million has been appropriated in matching grant funds to offset the cost of the installation (in first and second-class counties). This effort must be accelerated statewide.

### **Integrated land use and water planning**

As one of the fastest-growing states in the nation, how we grow and develop today will set our water use for decades to come. Land use planning is often undertaken independently of water planning efforts, even though the two can and should inform one another. Integrating these two processes and requiring water-efficient landscape ordinances from the beginning of any development proposal is cost-effective, compared to the expense of retrofitting existing development. We are enlisting the help of local officials in adopting water efficiency standards for new development.

### **Agricultural optimization**

The State is facing critical long-term reliable water supply issues. The agricultural sector accounts for about 75% of the state's total water use. (It ranges from 6% in Salt Lake County, to 58% in Utah and Juab counties, and 95% in rural areas like Millard, Cache and Uintah counties.) Agriculture and agricultural water use need to be part of any water planning discussion. Over the last few years, approximately \$7.3 million has been invested in agricultural optimization for research and projects. Continued investment in agricultural optimization will help the State evaluate ways to improve agricultural water use practices, create benefits for farmers, optimize water use and protect water quantity and quality for all uses in the system.

### **Statewide turf buyback program**

Outdoor water use makes up about 60% of our municipal and industrial water use. Turf buyback programs like "Flip Your Strip" programs offered by Jordan Valley Water Conservancy District and now Central Utah Water Conservancy District and Weber Basin Water Conservancy District help incentivize people to replace thirsty grass with waterwise options. These types of programs are typically offered at the local level – currently, states don't offer such a program. Utah wants to be the first and is working to expand this program statewide. The goal is to plant grass in areas where it's actively used rather than using grass as the default groundcover that's only walked on when it's mowed. Implementing a statewide rebate program will show Utah is serious about conservation and leading the way. These types of programs continue to be expanded on a local level.