

Drought in Lincoln County: What You Can Do

On July 2, Lincoln County declared a drought emergency because of low streamflows, low precipitation, and poor soil moisture conditions affecting communities, economic sectors, and local ecosystems. The drought conditions are putting stress on our drinking water supplies, as well as the fish and wildlife that depend on water in our streams.

We can all take steps to alleviate pressure on our local streams. Below are some ideas to help you conserve water.

CUT DOWN ON OUTDOOR WATER USE

In the summer, outdoor water use increases significantly. Save water outside with these tips:

- Water plants early in the morning or late at night when it's cooler (between 9 pm and 7 am).
- Limit lawn watering to once a week. Or, try letting it go dormant for the summer.
- Use tools and devices to save water, like weather-based or timed irrigation controllers, soil moisture sensors, or drip irrigation systems.
- Avoid washing cars, driveways, or equipment.

CHECK FOR LEAKS

Leaks can waste a significant amount of water and should always be fixed right away. Inspect your toilets, sinks, showers, and irrigation systems for leaks regularly and repair any that you find. You can use toilet dye tablets or food coloring to check for a leaking toilet. Simply place the dye in the tank, wait 15 minutes without flushing, and then check the toilet bowl. If any color appears, you have a leak.

Leaks can also be found by looking at your water meter. Read the meter before leaving the house when no water is being used. If the number is different when you return, you have a leak.

MORE TIPS

- Upgrade to water-efficient toilets that use 1.28 gallons per flush or less.
- Take shorter showers. Aim for 5 minutes!
- Install water-saving showerheads and faucet aerators.
- Wait to run the dishwasher or washing machine until you have a full load.



For more information about droughts and water conservation, visit www.midcoastwater.org.

