



Water Conservation

The Sebastopol community has responded to the drought with substantial reductions in water use. Below is water use data based on 2015 year-to-date information, as compared to the 2013 reference year:

Single family:	-22%
Multi-family:	-46%
Commercial:	-64%
Irrigation meters:	+46%
Corp Yard sales:	-30%
All customers:	-34%

Overall, the community is responding to the 25% reduction goal. Good job! If you are a single family homeowner, it would be great to do just a *little bit* better. The irrigation meter use has increased while other use has substantially declined due to the Barlow development landscape irrigation coming on line. This large site previously had no landscaping.

Key water conservation measures that you should consider include:

- Apply irrigation only during evening and early morning hours, and not more than twice a week.
- Ensure that irrigation systems do not overspray.
- Consider switching out higher-use toilets, faucets, washers and dishwashers with more efficient fixtures.
- Monitor for leaks, and fix them ASAP.
- Do not refill an empty swimming pool; do not fill a new pool.
- If you have an existing pool or spa, make sure it has a cover to limit evaporation.
- Only use a hose with a shut-off nozzle.
- Never use a hose as a 'broom' to wash down driveways or walkways.
- Consider postponing planting of new landscaping; any new landscaping should have low water needs.
- Design your yard to capture, slow down and soak in rainwater to promote moisture retention and groundwater recharge.
- Use mulch around plantings to help retain soil moisture.
- Run your dishwasher or washer only when you have a full load.
- Don't leave water running when brushing teeth, shaving, or doing dishes.
- Shorten showers to five minutes or less
- Capture start-up shower, sink, and bathwater to water plants or flush toilets.
- Consider rainwater catchment system to supplement landscape irrigation (but protect against debris and mosquito infiltration).
- Turn off non-recirculating water fountains.

See more information on our Water Conservation page at: <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/>



Prepare for an Early Fire Season

Due to extreme drought conditions, the Sebastopol Fire Department is asking residents to prepare early to create a fire-defensible space. Here is what you can do to protect your family, home and community:

- Maintain 100 feet of defensible space around all structures.
- Clear all needles, leaves from roofs, eaves and rain gutters.
- Trim branches at least six feet above the ground.
- Landscape with fire resistant/drought tolerant plants that require little water.
- Remove branches away from roofs and 10 feet from the chimney.
- Use trimming and mowing equipment before 10 a.m., and not on hot, windy days.
- Keep woodpiles at least 30 feet from the home.

For more information on defensible space, visit www.FireSafeSonoma.org or CAL Fire's www.ReadyForWildFire.org. If you have questions, please call the Fire Department at (707) 823-8061.

City Budget Improves

Sebastopol is benefiting from recovery from the Great Recession, and the City is in an improved financial condition. The City Council Budget Subcommittee worked closely with City staff to formulate a budget for consideration by the full City Council and public.

On November 6, 2014, voters approved amendments to the City's UUT which broadened the base to include telephone, garbage and cable providers and reduced the tax rate from 4% to 3.75%. The City is thankful for the Sebastopol citizens' continued support. Measure R utility user tax revenue will provide approximately 6.8% of the general fund support. Along with recession recovery, this updated tax will help the City maintain its services.

The Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget also provides funding for remodeling at the Community Center, assists with fire sprinklers at the Veteran's Building, includes a major update to the City web site that will allow on-line payment of utility bills, and provides funding for digitization of the Municipal Code. It also allows those City staff who had been on a reduced work schedule to reduce City costs, to return to a 40-hour work week.

Bridge Construction

The Caltrans project to reconstruct the Highway 12 bridge at the eastern entry to Sebastopol is underway, with intense construction activity.

The existing bridge has structural issues and will be completely replaced over a two-year period.

The new bridge will be wider and slightly higher, will have sidewalks on both sides, and construction will include closing sidewalk gaps to the west of the bridge, replacement of the bus stop to the west of the bridge, as well as replacement tree planting.

Traffic delays will occur, including some periods where only one lane will be open. However, the bridge will remain open except for limited late-night closures.

Please drive carefully in the construction zone, and be aware of worker safety.



Like us on Facebook

facebook.com/CityofSebastopolCA



Follow us on Twitter

[@SebastopolCity](https://twitter.com/SebastopolCity)