Conserve Water This Summer to Beat the Peak!

Tigard and Lake Oswego are partnering to share drinking water from the Clackamas River starting in 2016. The Clackamas River is one of Oregon's highest quality drinking water sources. To help preserve the river for wildlife and people, the two communities are joining forces to make water conservation a way of life.

The joint “Beat the Peak” campaign is sponsored this year by the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership. Water conservation is a top priority for the Partnership. Customers in Lake Oswego and the Tigard Water Service Area are asked to help ‘Beat the Peak’ by keeping daily water demand under 12 million gallons.

For Lake Oswego, 12 million gallons of water per day (mgd) is a level at which the system can reliably provide water, even with a pump out of service.

Summer water demand in Lake Oswego can quadruple the average winter consumption of 4 mgd. Outdoor watering pushes Lake Oswego’s treatment plant up to its 16 mgd capacity. During hot summer days, the City’s key water facilities, including the aging water intake and treatment plant, operate 24 hours per day at maximum capacity.

Beginning in July, find out each day’s water demand at the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership website, lotigardwater.org, and check out our Beat the Peak water meter, posted on the lawn at the West End Building on Kruse Way.

Beat the Peak is brought to you by the:

Lake Oswego · Tigard
Water Partnership
sharing water · connecting communities

For more information about the Lake Oswego Tigard Water Partnership, please visit lotigardwater.org

Top Three Ways to Beat the Peak

1. 1-Inch Per Week:
   One-inch of water is all lawns need to stay green and healthy. Pick up your free lawn water gauge from Lake Oswego City Hall and start saving today.

2. Water Wisely:
   Trees and shrubs have deep roots and need less water than lawns. Adjusting your watering for each area saves water and money.

3. Consider reducing your lawn area:
   Reducing the size of your lawn reaps large water savings rewards.

Let’s Talk Water

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How does water get to your tap? It’s not just the pipes.

You turn on your kitchen faucet and the water flows immediately, but do you ever think about what it takes to deliver that water? Perhaps you have thought about the underground pipes that bring water to your home or the Clackamas River where the water is initially drawn. Did you know there is a sophisticated computer based system that also plays a major role in ensuring that not only the water flows, but that it is of the highest quality, every time you open the tap?

Most modern municipal water systems are controlled by a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. SCADA allows City staff to monitor and control the water system including the Clackamas River intake, the complex series of chemical feed systems, settling basins, filters and pumps at the Water Treatment Plant and all 15 reservoirs and 11 pump stations that store and distribute water throughout Lake Oswego. SCADA tells water treatment operators how high the Clackamas River is and how much sediment it contains before they start daily treatment.

The SCADA system communicates hundreds of data points about the water treatment process regularly so operators know precisely the condition of the water at each step in the purification process. If something is off, operators can intervene at a moment’s notice. The system also alerts staff if water quality parameters such as the amount of chlorine, pH level, or turbidity of the water move above or below desired levels. Finally, the SCADA system detects how much water is being used by City neighborhoods at every hour of the day and which reservoirs are getting too low and need more water.

The SCADA system allows City Staff to monitor and control the water system.