

JOIN THE FIRST PARISH WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT



Frequently Asked Questions about the First Parish Water Conservation Project

HOW DID THE PROJECT GET STARTED?

In 2009 First Parish won a grant from the Rivers Stewardship Council (RSC) for the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers to start a water conservation program. With your help, we plan to total the 2011 household water use of everyone who participates and compare it to a baseline of the total use averaged for the years 2009-2010.

OUR GOAL IS TO REDUCE AGGREGATE WATER USE IN PARTICIPATING HOUSEHOLDS BY 10%.

WHEN DOES THE PROJECT START AND HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

We ask participants to begin their conservation efforts on January 1, 2011. Although the measurement of use for purposes of reporting to the RSC will end December 31, 2011, we hope that hardware changes and habits formed during the year will continue to reduce water demand long after the formal end of the project.

HOW DO I GET STARTED?

1. Look for the blue rain barrel at coffee hour and indicate that you want to be part of the project by signing the sign-up sheet. Questions? Ask or email Tom Arnold (tba1959@comcast.net).
2. Enter your water usage for 2011 on the First Parish web page as you get your water bills during the year.
<http://fpsudbury.org/wiki/GreenSanctuary/WaterConservationProject/>

Your usage will be CONFIDENTIAL. Only aggregate figures will be made public, unless you chose to enter your name on the First Parish website, in which case your usage will be seen by First Parish members only.

3. Once you sign the sign-up sheet, First Parish will contact the Sudbury Water District or the water district in your town for you and will include your 2009-10 usage in the aggregate totals to calculate a congregational baseline.

If you prefer that we not contact your water district, you can supply your prior years total use from your water bills to Tom by email.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IF I DO NOT LIVE IN SUDBURY?

Yes, you can submit your total water use from your bills for the years 2009-2010 and submit your total water use for 2011 at the end of that year.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IF I HAVE A WELL or DON'T RECEIVE HOUSEHOLD BILL?

Yes! You Can! If you are on a well or your usage is not directly available to you, it is still important to conserve water because private wells draw water from the same aquifers as the town wells and those aquifers recharge our rivers and streams.

If your use is not metered because you use a private well, or are a tenant, or for some other reason you cannot document that you have reduced your water use, you can still participate if you commit to use basic water saving techniques. With your permission, you will be listed as a "Non-metered participant" to recognize your interest and commitment.

CAN I PARTICIPATE IF I AM ALREADY CONSERVING WATER AND DOUBT THAT I CAN REDUCE MY USE FURTHER?

Yes! You Can! If you can show from your actual water bills in 2011 that your use in 2011 was less than 55gal/day/per person, you will be listed as a "Super Saver". Since the state standard for residential use is 65gal/day/per person, anyone who can document that they are using 15% less than the state standard will get special recognition.

WILL MY WATER USE RECORDS BE MADE PUBLIC?

No. Only aggregated (totaled) numbers for use will be made public.

HOW DO I DETERMINE MY WATER USE FROM MY WATER BILL?

Your water bill will have a number, such as 35, on it for the period of the bill. This number is rounded from your actual use to the nearest number in thousands of gallons. So, for example, if you used 34,791 gallons in a three month period, your bill would show use of 35.

WHAT DO I DO IF THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS IN MY HOME HAVE CHANGED OVER TIME OR HAVE CHANGED DURING THE YEAR?

When you submit the amount of water use for 2011 on the First Parish website, you will be asked to enter the average number of residents during the year. If, for example, you had four residents for 3 months, and three for the entire year (one child away at college) you would enter 3.25 residents.

WHY IS FIRST PARISH DOING THIS PROJECT?

This project is important for several reasons:

- 1) You will conserve the groundwater that replenishes the Sudbury, Assabet and Concord Rivers.
- 2) You will save Money! Water rates in Sudbury were raised in 2009 and may be raised again. By conserving, you will reduce your water bills.
- 3) You will help establish First Parish as “The Green Parish” in Sudbury.
- 4) You will be living our principle of respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

HOW DO I LEARN HOW TO CONSERVE WATER?

There are several ways that we will help you learn how you can conserve:

1. we are setting up an email group and will email tips on hardware, for example, low flow shower heads, and tips on easy lifestyle changes to conserve.
2. We will have meetings during the year so that you can share problems and successes.
3. We will send you notices of workshops and seminars by other organizations that may help you with your conservation efforts.
4. We are here to answer questions by email.

Submitted by the Green Sanctuary Committee