



SOUTH BAY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER

South Bay Cities Council of Governments

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When Talking About CONSERVATION, There is Always Something That Can Be Done!

By Vibha S. Joshi - SBESC Volunteer

The need to conserve water cannot be understated, especially in Southern California where a reoccurring drought situation and growing demand press the limits of the water supply. The good news is saving water and money is as accessible as ever, specifically by changing simple habits concerning water use in yards and gardens.

There is a lot that can be done to impact South Bay outdoor landscapes! Check out [West Basin Municipal Water District's \(West Basin\) website](#) or [Metropolitan Water District's rebate resource](#) to see what assets are available to help save water and money.

Start by replacing water wasting turf with water-efficient landscaping. Create an oasis by using pavers and step stones, river rock, gravel, colorful, polished small or big pebbles, sand, bark and mulch, and beautiful trendy succulents and drought-tolerant plants.



The **TURF's UP** program is now offering up to \$3 per square foot of lawn replaced with a water-efficient alternative! The average yard landscaped with turf uses 41,000 gallons of water per year, as opposed to a landscape with drought tolerant plants and other materials, which only uses 6,800 gallons per year.

South Bay residents can also attend **FREE** training classes on California Friendly landscapes. The purpose is to teach residents how to employ the latest water-efficient techniques using sustainable resources:

- Native plants and edible plants
- Water-efficient irrigation devices
- Rainwater capture and permeable materials
- On-site water retention to reduce water run-off and pollution to the ocean
- Evaluation of site and understanding of potable water use

Visit California Friendly landscapes and gardens in person at these South Bay locations:

- Inglewood Fire Station (141 W Regent St, Inglewood, CA 90301)
- West Basin's Water Recycling Facility (1935 Hughes Way, El Segundo, CA 90245).
- City Hall, Hawthorne (4455 W 126th St, Hawthorne, CA 90250)
- Redondo Beach Union High School (1 Sea Hawk Way, Redondo Beach, CA 90277)
- Hermosa Beach Community Center (710 Pier Ave, Hermosa Beach, CA 90254)
- Carson Community Center (801 E Carson St, Carson, CA 90745)



Additionally, go on a [South Bay Water-Wise Garden Tour](#) and experience a one-day, self-guided tour of 10 private homes' gardens.

West Basin also provides a program called "Worry- FREE Watering with a New Sprinkler System". One can participate in this program by exchanging an old irrigation controller for a new weather-based irrigation one that will reduce outdoor water use by up to 30%. To register for the upcoming exchange on Saturday, October 4th, call (310) 371-4633 or visit [SBESC's website](#).



Even though it does not rain that much in Southern California, there is still significant rainwater capture potential. Through West Basin's "Rainwater Rescue" program, residents can pick up FREE rain barrels, ensuring that every drop of water is put to effective use. Call South Bay Environmental Services Center to put your name on the interest list for the next giveaway event.

