

Water is precious and all life is dependent upon it. The clean water from our taps requires pumping, filtering, purification, and ultimately recycling back into the watershed via the city sewer system. All of that processing uses energy, so when we use water wisely, we can help reduce carbon emissions. The City of Ashland offers FREE indoor water use evaluations, designed to help you identify ways to save water inside the home. We can help you find, and perhaps even fix, simple leaks, install low flow faucet aerators, and showerheads. And, if you are ready to invest in new fixtures or appliances, we can help you determine where you'll get the biggest water savings for your investment.

Request your FREE indoor water evaluation by clicking on "Request Conservation Evaluation" from the Ashland Water Wise Irrigation page: <https://www.ashlandsaveswater.org/>

One good way to optimize outdoor water use in the growing season is to use mulch to help retain moisture and prevent evaporation of outdoor irrigation. But we also need to be fire wise. As our Rogue Valley climate warms, there is a heightened risk of wildfire and fire danger to our homes and businesses. Not all organic mulches have the same level of combustibility, speed of fire spread and flame height, according to a study done by researchers at University of Nevada Cooperative Extension (<https://extension.unr.edu/healthykids/pub.aspx?PubID=2982>). What they found was that all mulches were combustible given hot dry conditions, but they varied considerably in their flame height, heat given off and speed of fire spread. Composted wood chips and a single layer of Tahoe Chips – a product similar to what the utility tree companies produce, had the least hazardous fire behavior. The most hazardous mulches were shredded rubber and pine needles. The study recommends "not using any organic mulch within five feet of a house located in wildfire-prone areas. Instead, place non-combustibles such as rock, pavers, brick chips or well-irrigated low-combustible plants such as lawn or flowers closest to the house. The more combustible mulches should be used more than 30 feet from the home."

Finally, we can save water by carefully irrigating and using the right amount of water at the right time. The City of Ashland provides this resource as a starting pointing for reviewing the water needs of various parts of your landscape and garden:

[http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/Sample%20Lawn%20Watering%20Schedule%202016\(1\).pdf](http://www.ashland.or.us/SIB/files/Sample%20Lawn%20Watering%20Schedule%202016(1).pdf)

Use of drip irrigation with timers is a great way to avoid wasting water. Be sure to look into the wide variety of drip irrigation products available at local stores, and also take advantage of various rebates that the City of Ashland offers for water "smart irrigation controllers":

<https://www.ashlandsaveswater.org/assets/SmartControllerApplicationFinal.pdf>

*The CCOC is composed of nine voting members, six at-large members plus 1 each representative from SOU, the Ashland School District, and Recology. Non voting members include a representative from City staff and City Council. The CCOC plays a major role in advocating for, and educating the Ashland citizenry about the Ashland Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP). Consistent with the goals of the CEAP the CCOC makes recommendations on strategies, actions, and programs related to the wise and efficient use of resources by all Ashland citizens, including electricity and water conservation, waste prevention, air quality and climate resilience and preparedness as well as tracking and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. by Larry Cooper, member Conservation and Climate Outreach Commission