



## 2021 High School Video Contest

# How Can You Save Water At Home?

Water keeps metro Atlanta going, whether it is the people, the economy, or the natural environment. The Metro Water District 15-county region relies almost entirely on surface water to meet the water needs of the region. The District receives an average of 50 inches of rain a year, and we store some of this rainfall in reservoirs to provide relief in times of drought. Since the Metro Water District's creation in 2001, the region has grown by more than 1.3 million people. In the same time frame, water use has dropped 10% thanks, in part, to the water conservation efforts of metro area residents, utilities, and businesses. Individual action on water conservation is so important—every drop truly counts. As we continue to grow and prosper as a region, our continued success on water conservation is more important than ever.

## 2021 High School Video Contest Topic

Did you know there are easy things you can do at home to help save water? This year, make a video with the following three strategies that can help lower your family's water utility bill by checking your home for leaks. Get started on an at-home, DIY water audit with these three initial steps:

- » Use your water utility bill to track water use. Show us how to calculate **daily household use** by referencing your water utility bill. How much water do you use each day?
- » Leaky toilets are one of the most common culprits of residential water leaks. Here's how to test your toilet for leaks:
  - Step 1:** Drop food coloring into the tank;
  - Step 2:** Don't flush for 15 minutes;
  - Step 3:** When you return, if the color shows up in the bowl you have a leak.
  - Step 4:** If you do have a leak, check the flapper first!
- » Locate your home's water meter and learn how to read it to check for water leaks in your home.
  - Step 1:** Locate your water meter (usually in front of your house near the street).
  - Step 2:** Check the number on the meter; set a two-hour timer and do not use water during that time.
  - Step 3:** Note the number on the meter at the end of the two-hour period – if there is a change and no water was used, you likely have a leak.

### In addition to the required topic, please consider addressing the following:

- » If you do have a leak, what should you do next? Many leaks are easy and inexpensive to fix yourself! Refer to the 10 Minute WaterSense Challenge for examples.
- » According to the Water Research Foundation, 14% of indoor water use is attributed to leaks. It is important to identify and fix leaks in a timely manner to save water and to prevent damage to your home.
- » Water conservation is important all the time, not just during times of drought.

## Resources

- » Metropolitan North Georgia Water Planning District – [northgeorgiawater.org](http://northgeorgiawater.org)
- » At-home Water Audit – [northgeorgiawater.org/water-audit/](http://northgeorgiawater.org/water-audit/)
- » My Drop Counts – [www.mydropcounts.org](http://www.mydropcounts.org)
- » U.S. EPA WaterSense 10 Minute Challenge – [www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/ws-ourwater-detect-and-chase-down-leaks-checklist.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-02/documents/ws-ourwater-detect-and-chase-down-leaks-checklist.pdf)