

2008 DRIP campaign comes to a close

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With summer coming to a rapid close, the Grand Valley Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) encourages you to continue your efforts at water conservation around the home and business. While outside water use will dramatically decrease as the temperatures march steadily towards freezing, indoor use will continue to be an area where water use reduction can continue. Over the past 18 weeks, we have provided readers of The Daily Sentinel a steady diet of water-conservation techniques and ideas, ranging from landscaping tips and strategies for using low-water demand plants, to evaporative cooler maintenance and selection. We've also talked about water savings through upgrades to home appliances. We have shown ways to conserve water by involving the whole family. Use the DRIP website (www.thedripwebsite.com) to reference all articles from this year and select ones from previous years' activities.

Our message this year has been to emphasize the smart use of our finite water resources. Smart water use is not just about using water-efficient appliances and plumbing fixtures. Smart use also includes changing your habits – like watering your lawn in the early morning hours to minimize evaporation during the heat of the day, doing laundry and dishes only after a full load is collected, and just being more aware and cognizant of water waste. Generally a simple adjustment to lawn sprinkler heads will minimize the amount of water being wasted on paved surfaces (sidewalks, driveways and parking lots) which eventually runs down the gutter and back to the river with no added benefit to yards and parks.

The Grand Valley's four domestic water providers (Ute Water, Clifton Water, Town of Palisade and the City of Grand Junction), will be emphasizing the smart water use concept as they move towards development of a common water conservation plan. This common plan will address water-conservation efforts within each individual water provider's services and delivery activities as well as how to encourage those efforts in their individual customer bases.

In concluding the 2008 DRIP public information campaign, we would like to thank you, the readers of The Daily Sentinel, for reading about and implementing the simple smart water use measures we have identified this summer. Every drop we save today helps with the future water needs of not just the water customers of the Grand Valley, but everyone dependent on the Colorado River Basin for domestic and agricultural water consumption.

We live in a semiarid climate where droughts will always be a part of our environment. Water for our future means conserving now. The Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) is a collaboration between the valley's domestic water utilities and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public about drought and the importance of water conservation.