Water Conservation Tips for Local Governments

**Municipal Water Systems**
- Promote a metering system that includes regular meter readings, a detailed metering network, and reports water usage back to the customer.
- Explore utility rate structure that encourages water efficiency, such as time-of-day pricing, tiered or block rate pricing.
- Monitor your systems for leaks, and repair leaks immediately. Fixing leaks not only conserves water, but also minimizes property damage and saves money.
- Re-use treated water for landscape irrigation, agricultural irrigation, fire protection or other industrial uses.
- Cap abandoned artesian wells to minimize water loss.
- Establish a public education and outreach program.
- Offer residential water audits to help users conserve water.
- Develop a drought management plan.

**For Your Community**
- Develop a water efficiency plan for your community. Include conservation measures, reduction goals and community outreach.
- Offer incentive programs to homeowners and businesses to encourage water conservation.
- Include water efficiency requirements in building codes.
- Ensure fire hydrants are tamper proof.
- Promote low water use landscaping (xeriscape) in municipal parks.
- Water municipal parks and gardens at night and using timer controlled sprinkler systems to minimize evaporation.
- Install water-saving pool filters in municipal pools.

**Government Buildings**
- Establish a maintenance plan for your water system to detect and repair all leaks.
- Install low-flow toilets in government buildings.
- Install faucet aerators and low-flow showerheads in government buildings.
- Install energy and water efficient appliances and equipment such as dishwashers in municipal buildings.
- Water areas around government buildings at night, using a programmable timer.
- Target sprinklers to ensure that only lawn and garden areas get watered, not the street, sidewalks or parking lots.
- Use native plants and low water landscaping (xeriscape) around city buildings.

**For More Information**
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) www.epa.gov
EPA’s Office of Water www.water.epa.gov
Idaho Department of Water Resources www.idwr.idaho.gov
Idaho Department of Environmental Quality www.deq.idaho.gov