



Quarterly E-News

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Fall | 2024

Partnership Wins 2024 WaterSense Sustained Excellence Awards:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership with two WaterSense Sustained Excellence awards – one as a Promotional Partner and one for the partnership’s Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper program as a Professional Certifying Organization. WaterSense honored its Sustained Excellence, Partner of the Year and Excellence Award winners during the WaterSmart Innovations Conference in Las Vegas. The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership was one of 19 Sustained Excellence Award winners.



WaterSense recognized the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership for its water conservation achievements in 2023, including coordinating the partnership’s Dye Tab Challenge contest with the WaterSense Program’s Fix-a-Leak Week and a collaboration with Sonoma Clean Power and Sonoma County Library to make the water- and energy-saving DIY Toolkit available with tools, information, and water- and energy-efficient fixtures, including free WaterSense-labeled showerheads and faucet aerators. WaterSense also recognized the Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership’s Qualified Water Efficient Landscape Program (QWEL) for its continued excellence in educating landscape professionals in sustainable and water efficient landscape practices. The partnership improved accessibility with classes and testing available in both English and Spanish.

In addition to the EPA WaterSense Sustained Excellence Awards, the Partnership received the [Smart Water Technologies](#) 2024 Outstanding Industry Partnership Award from the Irrigation Association for the QWEL program. The QWEL program was developed in the Sonoma-Marin area and is now offered in seven Western states and British Columbia, Canada. Since 2007 over 6,000 people have completed the program, with over 2,500 professionals currently in good standing and over 600

professionals listed for hire.

“The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration in driving meaningful change within our industry,” said IA CEO Natasha Rankin, MBA, CAE. “Their commitment to engaging landscape professionals through the Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper program has had a lasting impact not only in their local community but across the broader Western United States and beyond. The Irrigation Association is proud to recognize their leadership and innovation in promoting sustainable water management, and we look forward to seeing continued success as we work together to promote efficient irrigation practices.”

[Click here to learn more about the EPA WaterSense awards](#)

Marin Water Teams Up With Local Business for DIY Rain Barrel Giveaway:

Through a collaboration with EO Products, Marin Water is offering a DIY Recycled Rain Barrel Giveaway to customers. EO Products is a San Rafael-based essential oils producer focused on sustainable manufacturing, including putting its manufacturing products back into use, and has donated barrels previously used in its business operation to the district.

These non-food-grade barrels can easily be converted into water storage barrels for use in residential and commercial rainwater catchment systems, enabling Marin Water customers to supplement their outdoor watering needs. With the free barrels, a few needed supplies and some DIY instructions, customers can create their own rain catchment systems at a reduced cost.



A Marin Water customer loads a DIY Rain Barrel into the bed of his pickup truck during a recent scheduled giveaway at Marin Water headquarters in Corte Madera.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Find Inspiration in These Marin Water Customer's Stories:

A Tiburon resident fixed leaks and reduced outdoor irrigation utilizing customer resources on the Marin Water website. A resident of San Anselmo purchased a smart home water monitor through a Marin Water customer discount program and detected a

hidden water leak in less than an hour. And another resident found a creative outlet – and water savings – when she took advantage of Marin Water’s Cash for Grass program to plant a beautiful, native plant-forward backyard landscape.

Now, these Marin County community members are sharing their stories with others with the hopes of inspiring a wider swath of residents to find ways to use water – our most precious resource – more sustainably.



Collette S., of Mill Valley, stands beneath fruit trees in her urban farm at her home in Marin County. Collette took advantage of Marin Water’s Conservation Assistance Program and saved hundreds of dollars on her water bill.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Marin Water to be Featured in 2024 Marin Green Home Tour:

The climate is changing. Your home should, too. The free, virtual Marin Green Home Tour showcases how Marin homeowners are adapting their homes to combat climate change, improve air quality, generate clean energy and move towards a safer, healthier, greener, more resilient future. The event features short video tours of five Marin homes, followed by live Q&As with the homeowners.



See heat pumps, induction stoves, solar and battery systems, and other strategies for maximizing clean energy. See greywater systems, rainwater harvesting, recirculation pumps, and other strategies for conserving water. Learn how to access rebates and free planning services for your own green home updates, tips for renters, and whether solar remains a great investment. This event is a project of Sustainable Marin

Free, virtual tour will showcase water conservation strategies, other tips!

[Click here to learn more and to register](#)

Fall is Planting Season!

The Water Smart Plant Label program highlights low

water-use plants, so you can easily find plants that thrive in our climate. Native and low water-use plants are an essential consideration when designing and managing Sonoma and Marin County landscapes. Our area has a Mediterranean climate characterized by wet winters and long, dry summers with little rainfall. Plants that are suited or adapted to local conditions not only use less water but generally grow more successfully and robustly, with fewer insect and disease problems.

Look for Water Smart Plants at a local nursery that not only benefit you but our local ecosystems too!



**Nurseries that
offer the Water
Smart Plant Label**

Water Smart Garden Maintenance Tip:

Fall is an excellent time to perform garden maintenance. Prune perennials and cool season grasses, clear out dead, woody material, and dry leaves for fire season.

For more information on how to prune and care for California native plants, check out the Water Smart Maintenance Manual. The Maintenance Manual is free to download and will guide you through the seasons for tips on keeping your plants healthy and your yard looking good all year round!



**Click here to download
the Water Smart
Maintenance Manual**

Time to Dial Back Your Irrigation:

Plants need less water as the temperature cools, so remember to adjust your irrigation schedule. If your irrigation controller has a seasonal adjustment setting, you can set to 69% for September and 48% for October, this will program your controller to automatically adjust for the cooler months. For an up-to-date irrigation schedule, check out the [Irrigation Scheduling Tool](#).

Looking to upgrade your irrigation system?

Consider upgrading to WaterSense-labeled Smart Irrigation Controllers. These controllers adjust watering schedules based on real-time weather and landscape



The following water providers have Smart Irrigation Controller rebates:

- [City of Healdsburg](#)
- [Town of Windsor](#)
- [City of Santa Rosa](#)
- [North Marin Water District](#)

conditions, providing efficient water use.

There are two types of Smart Irrigation Controllers:

- **Weather-Based Irrigation Controllers:**
These use local weather data to adjust watering.
- **Soil Moisture-Based Irrigation Controllers:** These use sensors to measure soil moisture levels and adjust watering accordingly.

- [Marin Water District](#)

Click here to learn
more about
**WaterSense
Labeled
Controllers**

Get Ready for the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour - May 2025:

We're excited to announce that the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour will be returning in early May 2025, and we'd love for you to be a part of it!



Why Participate?

- **Inspire Others:** Share your knowledge and passion for native gardening.
- **Connect with Fellow Gardeners:** Exchange tips and ideas with like-minded individuals.
- **Showcase Your Garden:** Let your hard work shine and be appreciated by the community.

For more details or to express your interest in participating,
please reach out to us - savewater@scwa.ca.gov

Click here for more information about the tour

Help Kick Off Zero Waste Week 2024:

Do you have a lamp, small appliance, textile, or bike
in need of repair?

Bring it to the Repair Fair!

Join us for a **FREE** Reuse + Repair Fair at the Rohnert Park–Cotati Library to help kick off Zero Waste Week 2024! Bring in appliances that need repairs, and enjoy a clothing swap and an outdoor resource fair featuring many local organizations and businesses showcasing art and products made from upcycled and repurposed goods. The Sonoma-Marín Saving Water Partnership will be tabling with water-efficient tools and tips.

REPAIR FAIR

Come experience the Joy of Reuse

1. Bring an item for repair
2. Get assigned to a Repair Coach
3. Repair item (and learn things)
4. Leave happy!

Saturday, October 12
2 pm - 5 pm

Rohnert Park - Cotati Library
6250 Lynne Conde Way, Rohnert Park

Plus: a Clothes Swap Reuse Fair + more as a part of

North Bay Zero Waste Week 2024

for details or to volunteer:
para más detalles o para ser voluntario:
<https://www.reusealliance.org/events/windsor-repair-fair>

partners + sponsors

Reuse Alliance ZERO WASTE LIBRARY SOMO

The Reuse + Repair fair will be held on Saturday, October 12th from 2-5pm.

[Click here for more information](#)

UC Master Gardener Program - Upcoming Events:

Join the UC Master Gardener Program of Sonoma County this fall for a series of engaging events! Whether you're an experienced gardener or just starting out, these workshops offer valuable insights into sustainable gardening practices, plant care, and seasonal tips.

Don't miss these opportunities to enhance your gardening skills, learn from experts, and connect with your community!



[Click here for more information](#)



California American Water - Larkfield · City of Cloverdale · City of Cotati · City of Healdsburg
Marin Water · North Marin Water District · City of Petaluma · City of Rohnert Park · City of Santa Rosa
City of Sonoma · Sonoma Water · Valley of the Moon Water District · Town of Windsor

STAY CONNECTED



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