



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 28, 2016

WATER RESTRICTIONS START MID-MAY

Water conservation efforts are starting earlier and will last longer in the Township of Langley and throughout Metro Vancouver to help cope with what could be another long, hot summer.

Stage 1 Water Restrictions will go into effect a month sooner this year. Starting May 15, all municipal water system users must limit their lawn sprinkling to assigned days and times. Those who rely on private wells are also encouraged to support conservation efforts by complying with the water restrictions.

Residential lawn sprinkling is only allowed from 4am - 9am on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays for homes with even numbered addresses, and from 4am - 9am on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays for homes with odd numbered addresses.

For non-residential properties, even numbered addresses can sprinkle lawns on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1am - 6am, with odd numbered addresses permitted on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1am - 6am. All non-residential addresses can sprinkle lawns on Fridays from 4am - 9am.

"We have been experiencing longer, hotter seasons and everyone needs to make a commitment at home to ensure our water levels are respected," said Erin Pawlikowski, coordinator of the Township of Langley's Water Wise Program, which is conducted by the Langley Environmental Partners Society.

"During the warm season, our water usage increases by 50 per cent, which puts a strain on the environment and our limited water resources," said Township of Langley Environmental Coordinator Meaghan Norton Daniel.

She noted that some parts of the Township rely solely on groundwater drawn from local aquifers. If too much water is extracted in these areas, there is the potential for a water shortage. Other areas serviced by the Township's municipal water system receive a mix of groundwater and water from Metro Vancouver reservoirs, which rely on snowfall and rain to replenish them each year.

"Our water is a precious resource that should never be wasted or taken for granted," Norton Daniel said, as it supports two vital functions – it provides drinking water and is used in emergencies, such as fighting forest fires.

"It all comes from the same source," said Pawlikowski. "If wildfires get out of control and more water is needed to fight them, we will experience higher stages of restrictions throughout the summer to help maintain supplies."

“That’s why people need to let their lawns go golden and focus on draught resistant landscaping,” she said. “We need to think about what’s important, and little efforts make a big difference if everybody does them.”

The Stage 1 Restrictions, which are automatically implemented throughout Metro Vancouver every year, will stay in effect until October 15 and can escalate to more restrictive levels if drought conditions persist.

For more information, visit tol.ca/waterrestrictions.

For more information, contact Township of Langley Environmental Coordinator Meaghan Norton Daniel at mnortondaniel@tol.ca or 604.533.6009.