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Oklahoma WATER ISSUES

Water Advisory Council off to strong start

It was bridges rather than brick walls that characterized the first meeting of the Oklahoma Water for 2060 Advisory Council. ORWP President Charlette Hearne, a well-known water advocate picked by former Speaker Kris Steele to represent Congressional District 2 on the council, said she left the inaugural meeting with high hopes.

The Water for 2060 Council was selected to develop a plan for stabilizing — and possibly even reducing — ever increasing demands on Oklahoma's finite freshwater resources.

Passed overwhelmingly by the 2012 State Legislature, the Water for 2060 Act places Oklahoma in the national spotlight by being the first state to establish an ambitious goal of consuming no more freshwater in 2060 than is being used today, while at the same

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Tyler Sutterfield and Tyler Hudspeth explain their water conservation project display to state Rep. Ed Cannaday, D–Porum.
COURTESY HASKELL COUNTY 4-H

Haskell County teens lead a revolution

By Pennie Embry

There's a revolution in the wind, one that is shaping a better future for all Oklahomans. It's a Revolution of Responsibility, and Haskell County teens Tyler Hudspeth and Tyler Satterfield are out in front, leading the way.

The two Stigler High School freshmen and 4-H members are focused on promoting water conservation in their community. They know that using less water today, along with capturing and finding uses for water that might otherwise be wasted, ensures that they and their fellow Oklahomans will have water for tomorrow, for next year, and for generations to come.

Their Revolution of Responsibility is a nationwide 4-H movement that challenges its members to make a difference where it counts, to leave a lasting, positive impact on their communities. Closely tied to this is the 4-H STEM program, which fosters youth interest and leadership in science, technology, engineering and math careers.

It was the Responsibility Revolution and STEM that led Tyler Satterfield and Tyler Hudspeth to what is now, they say, a lifetime commitment to protecting the future of Oklahoma's water through conservation and other measures.

"It started in June of 2012, when we went to STEM training at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater," Satterfield said. There, from the different project tracks available to them, the boys chose the iGreen Track, which covers environmental projects. "We learned

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Reflections Why should we conserve water?

By Don Faulkner

Being more than a half century old, I grew up in a time when everyone from my generation thought America was the land of plenty. Not only did it seem there was plenty of everything, everything was cheap. Gas was 19.9 cents per gallon, bread was 10 cents a loaf, and you could buy a soda pop for 10 cents.

Clean, fresh water was also cheap. We would use as much as we wanted without so much as a thought to what we were wasting.

Today things are very different. Where I live, gas is $3.45 per gallon, and in other states a gallon of gas will cost $4.00 or more. Today a loaf of bread is $1.95 and soda pop is $1.69. And who would have even imagined 50 years ago that in 2013, a small bottle of water would sell for more than a dollar? In most homes, water used to be the least expensive utility we had to pay each month. Not so anymore; these days the officials running our utilities are raising water and sewer rates, sometimes at pretty alarming rates.

So I had to ask myself, what's going on?

First, there's all the people in this country. Fifty years ago the population of the United States was 189 million. Today, the population in the United States is 313 million, and the projected population for the year 2050 is 438 million. And all those people use water. Lots and lots of water.

Today the average American uses 120 gallons of water per day. Taking these calculations, Americans use 37,560,000,000 gallons of fresh, treated water every single day. This means we are using OVER 50 percent MORE water than we were using 50 years ago. And by 2050, if we continue on this path, we will be using over ***150*** percent more water than we used 50 years ago. These numbers would not be alarming if we were out finding new water supplies, but unfortunately there are no new water supplies to find. We have no more water today on the Earth than we had 50 years ago.

So the question is, how do we make sure we have enough water not only for today, but for generations to come?

The only logical answer I can come up with is **conservation.** Conservation simply means making do with less, saving some of what we have today so it will be there tomorrow and even longer.

There's an old saying we all know, that it is hard to teach an old dog new tricks. But as caring citizens, we must take it upon ourselves to change. That change has to start with us. We have to change our attitudes towards how much water we need, we have to pay attention to how much water we waste, and we have to find ways every day to use less. We have to make sure our children and grandchildren are not deprived of the wonders of water that you and I have enjoyed during our lifetimes.

Whether those wonders are fishing trips, time spent floating on a lake, relaxing under a hot shower, or the simple, precious enjoyment of a cold glass of water on a hot summer day, we have to stop taking these things for granted.

I don't know about you, but this old dog has decided it's never too late to change, never too late to make a difference in this world. I don't want to be a part of the generation that left this country worse off. I want to be a part of the generation that made a difference. I hope you do too. Let's all learn ways we can conserve water for our future.

WATER FOR 2060

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time allowing for Oklahoma's economic growth. It also created a 15-member Advisory Council to make recommendations to the Governor and legislature on water conservation practices and incentives to assist in achieving this goal.

"For such a diverse group from all across Oklahoma, and with so many unique perspectives on water needs and supply, it was a very good, very positive meeting," Hearne said. "The Council has some solid advocates for sustaining our precious water resources."

The Water for 2060 Advisory Council, chaired by OWRB Executive Director J.D. Strong, includes Jim Bachmann and Lauren Brookey of Tulsa; OWRB board members Tom Buchanan, Altus and Bob Drake, Davis; Danny Galloway, Stillwater; Roger Griffin and Charlette Hearne, Broken Bow; Mark Helm and Nathan Kuhnert, Oklahoma City; former State Representative Phil Richardson, Minco; Kevin Smith, Enid; Trent Smith, Choctaw; former OWRB board member Dr. Joe Taron, Shawnee; and Jerry Wiebe, Hooker. As president of Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy and a Southeast Oklahoma business owner, Hearne plans to be a voice for the value of non-consumptive waters. These are waters needed to stay in a lake, river or stream to support activities such as fishing, hunting, boating, swimming and other recreational uses. Non-consumptive water uses are vital to the state's $7.1 billion tourism and recreation industry.

While the first meeting was mainly introductory, Hearne said no time was wasted. "There was lots of input from the agricultural and municipal points of view." But rather than concerns being presented as insurmountable, non-negotiable obstacles, Hearne said, "It was more like, 'these are our concerns about our needs, and yes they are real, so let's talk solutions. Real solutions.'"

So what were some of the examples of day-one cooperation? One major irrigator, who was admittedly concerned about water supplies for the state's huge agriculture sector (after all, crop irrigation uses the most water in Oklahoma,) agreed that no matter how water-frugal he and his fellow irrigators were, "he was not afraid to say, 'we can always do better'," Hearne said.

For municipalities, the solution to water shortages — conservation — is often described as a sword that cuts both ways. While on one hand, using less water is the most logical and least expensive way to protect future water supplies, water sales to water customers provide revenues for those municipalities to maintain, improve and expand water infrastructure.

"But we won't get stuck on that point," Hearne said. "Instead, I would like us to examine how Israel — a walking, talking, scientific model of conservation technology, is using conservation and desalination to stretch water resources and create revenue." Hearne explained that Israel's water conservation specialists parlayed investments in desalination and conservation into the lucrative export of technology and products related to water conservation. "So, specialized drip irrigation materials, components needed for desalination plants, things like that bring in revenue. We need to broaden our ideas of revenue resources. We can't rely on high water use for revenue when high water use means we could run out of water."

The desire to reduce Oklahoma's water footprint was a true grassroots recommendation, Hearne said, and she sees some of that grassroots spirit in her fellow Advisory Council members. "From the irrigators in Western Oklahoma to the forester in Southeast Oklahoma, most of the council members expressed a serious interest in sustaining our water resources, and they are thinking in terms of decades or even longer. They're not thinking of only next year, and not thinking only in terms of themselves. This is a group that understands the importance of generational equity when it comes to our most precious natural resource — water," Hearne said. "We couldn't have had a more encouraging start."

Oklahoma WATER ISSUES

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San Antonio: A city doing it right

Across the nation, cities large and small are embracing water conservation, reuse and recycling as key parts of their water supply solutions. They've learned that conservation is the cheapest source of water. Conservation leaders like Las Vegas, San Antonio, and El Paso know that water saved today is water they do not have to buy tomorrow, or next year.

And from all the nation's most visible and active municipal leaders in water conservation, San Antonio truly stands out.

Like most of Central Texas, the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) relies on the Edwards Aquifer as its primary source of water. As a permitted water system, SAWS has limited pumping rights. It can only take so much water from the Edwards. By the late eighties and early nineties, heavy pumping from the aquifer had significantly reduced flows to rivers supporting the ecological and economic health of the region.

So San Antonio had to find a way to permanently live with a more limited water supply while still growing its population and economy. And over the ensuing decades, they have done just that. San Antonio is one of the fasted growing cities in our country, with a 67 percent increase in its population since the 80s — and all with almost no increase in overall water use.

How? By what might seem one of the strangest business models on the planet: convincing their water customers to buy less of their product. And by establishing and promoting water conservation, efficiency, reuse and recycling programs.

Years of drought across the nation, even in seemingly lush San Antonio, have brought into focus for SAWS customers that water is a finite resource. Added to that is conservation's financial upside.

"Conservation generally costs far less than projects such as new reservoirs, pipelines and treatment plants," said Karen Guz, San Antonio's director of water conservation. "San Antonio reports that for every dollar they spent on conservation, they avoided seven dollars in new water supply costs. Now that is a promising return on investment."

Today, San Antonians from every walk of life take part — and pride — in their city's conservation efforts.

"No one thing, no one sector of the city makes the greatest effort, "said Guz. "It truly is a balance between residential and commercial efforts."

Taming domestic use

Education has been key, and with domestic customers, information about conservation incentives on the SAWS website has been very effective, Guz said.

One of the city's longest running and most popular water conservation incentives is the "Kick the Can" program. SAWS is replacing older — 1992 and prior — residential toilet fixtures with brand new, free water-efficient toilets. These older toilets generally use five to seven gallons per flush, while the new, dual flush toilets average about one gallon per flush. This longstanding program, which has replaced more than 250,000 toilets, ends in December. Each year, free SAWS toilets save millions of gallons of water and shave countless dollars from water bills.

SAWS also has a strong program that helps residents isolate and repair leaks. A single leaking faucet can add up to 5,000 gallons of water lost in a year.

Today, the most popular SAWS residential incentive is the WaterSaver Landscape Coupon program. SAWS describes this pilot program as a "plant by numbers approach" to gardening. For every 200 square feet of grass removed, a customer can receive a $100 coupon towards a plant package that includes 15 drought-tolerant plants, a garden bed plan and a plant care guide.

"It's wonderful," Guz said. "People are really responding, and they're having fun. People who never gardened before are trying it because now they have guidance, they have a layout they can follow, or not. The coupon mostly covers the plant costs, and the participating nurseries love it because it is creating new customers."

What SAWS staff members have learned over the years is that, when it comes to landscape water use, the more involved homeowners are in their landscaping, the easier it is for them to understand water needs. They are less likely to overwater, less likely to plant water-gulping plants if they learn to make educated choices.

"We give them a lot of support once they use the coupon program," Guz said. She explained that SAWS has a contract with a Master Gardener organization to do follow up with customers participating in the coupon program. "So the organization gets support from us even as they help us. It's cost effective and nice for the customers. We also put out an e-newsletter on gardening every week. Some of the articles are from our staff, some from local celebrity gardeners."

Across the country, overwatering landscaping is a significant problem and takes up lots of drinking water. That problem seems to be declining with education efforts, Guz said. "Lawn irrigation systems can waste enormous amounts of water while residents sleep. Most of the water runs off, and people don't see that. And, of course our biggest challenge comes when it is hot and dry, and our availability to take water out of the Edwards goes down. It's hot, there's no rain for a long time, and people want beautiful lawns. They want to use more water than they need to. We work hard to educate people about moderating their landscape irrigation.

"San Antonio reports that for every dollar they spent on conservation, they avoided seven dollars in new water supply costs."

KAREN GUZ
San Antonio's director of water conservation

"And this is not an all or nothing situation. You don't have to have a yard of cactus and rocks, unless that's what you want. We can have a beautiful city full of beautiful plants and flowers and lawns, but our strategy is in teaching residents to manage their ornamental landscaping, use plants that may look like they use a lot of water but are actually hardy and drought tolerant."

Conservation simply good business

On the business side, SAWS networks with commercial and industrial customers in other ways, mostly through rebates. They offer standard rebates, but also custom rebates tailored to meet the needs of a specific business.

"The businesses we work with include food manufactures, high-end hotels, dental offices, and small businesses. We are talking to just about everybody who uses water. We are always amazed at the ways people can do the same things using less water."

Many industrial processes require large amounts of water, much of that rinse water as part of a cleaning process, Guz pointed out. "Something might require three rinses. The last one is clean. So when customers take that final rinse, put it in a tank, and then use it for their first rinse, they've just reduced their water use by a third. Imagine commercial laundries, car wash operations and other places doing that. The water savings add up. It's not rocket science."

And then there is the SAWS direct recycling system, which sends treated effluent (non-potable water) back to large industrial customers and golf courses. Not a single golf course that is a SAWS customer uses drinking water to keep their grass green.

"And there's more," Guz said. "Microsoft uses recycled water for cooling towers, Toyota uses it to produce cars, and some goes to our energy production."

Legislative support

"Conservation is a big part of our state water plan," Guz said. "We are lucky in that many of our legislators recognize the strategic importance of conservation. Where we are today did not happen overnight. It happened in baby steps, and every session they improve the state's water conservation strategy a little bit more. And compliance is getter better; citizens are getting the importance of conservation and regulating water loss."

Bit by bit, step by step, with the help of state legislation, community leaders, and, most importantly, the citizens and businesses of San Antonio, water conservation has become an everyday part of that city's life. And Guz expects them to get better each year, to set aside enough water through conservation to get San Antonians, if necessary, through another drought of record.

Like she said, it's not rocket science.

"No matter who is using water, it's almost always possible to use less water and still be happy," she said. "Conservation is not about deprivation. Conservation means finding a way to use less."

REVOLUTION

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how to conserve anything that had to do with the environment — power, water, things like that," he explained.

During the course of the training, the boys learned one way of turning a water problem into a water solution. "We visited a school in Stillwater that had a rainwater sand cistern outside the school," said Hudspeth.

A rainwater sand cistern captures rainfall — often from a roof — that may otherwise create drainage problems or simply run off into a storm water system instead of watering vegetation. The captured water is stored below ground in the sand and later used for irrigation.

The boys also learned about the *40 Gallon Challenge,* a multi-state campaign that challenges local residents and businesses to conserve at least 40 gallons of water per person, per day.

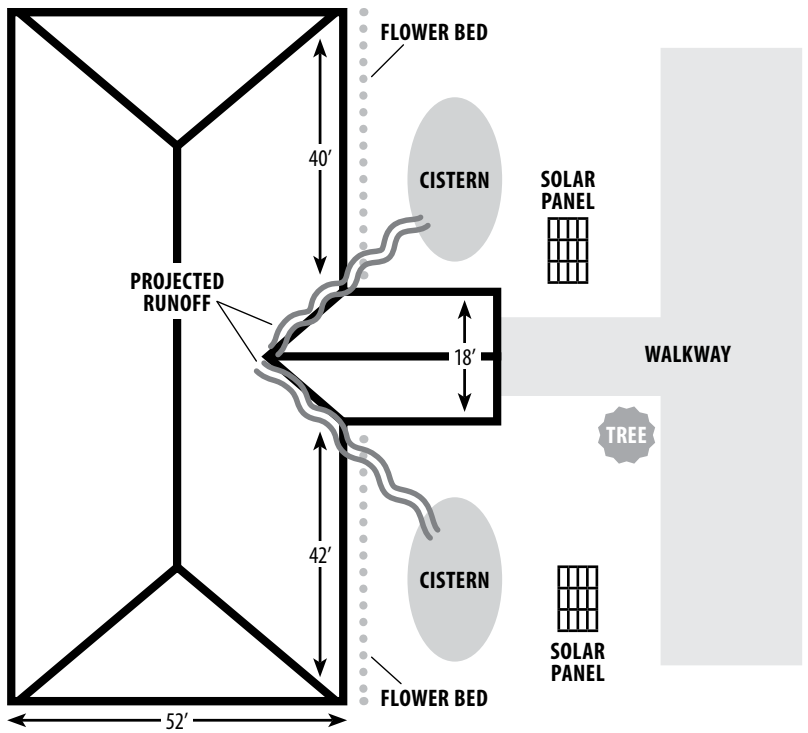
Nationwide, multiple severe droughts, population growth, and increasing demands on water for food production, manufacturing, and energy production have stressed our water supplies. People are realizing that reducing demand is the simplest, least expensive way to protect those supplies. So across the country, colleges and universities, county extension offices, 4-H chapters, water advocacy groups and others are launching the *40 Gallon Challenge* in their own neighborhoods, schools and cities. They know water not used today is water available tomorrow.

STEM training is more than simply learning, it is service learning; it's about identifying a community need or issue, securing local partners to help with a solution, and then applying the new information, technology and ideas learned to that problem. It's about creating community awareness, often through media or workshops, so that others get engaged in problem solving too.

With this in mind, the boys returned home with two ideas: build a rainwater sand cistern to handle a water drainage problem outside the county building that houses the Haskell County OSU extension office, and start a *40 Gallon Challenge* in their community.

In didn't take long to turn those ideas into reality.

The Haskell County Commissioners helped with the sand cistern project by installing guttering on the building to help with the collection of rainwater. They also provided county maintenance employees to help with the construction of the sand cisterns. Other 4-H members and some 4-H staff and volunteers helped as well.



A diagram of the Haskell County 4-H demonstration garden.

"A sand cistern is basically just a pit in the ground with a waterproof liner that keeps the water you collected from seeping into the ground," Hudspeth said. "Our liner was made from recycled billboards." He went on to explain that their cisterns were designed to catch rainwater running off the roof of the extension office. The water goes into the pits, where the sand holds it and protects it from mosquito breeding or sunlight, which can cause algae growth. The sand also keeps the water cool. The pits are equipped with solar powered pumps, which pump out the water to irrigate the Oklahoma Proven plants selected to landscape the County Extension office building.

The two Responsibility Revolutionaries didn't stop there. They went on to launch the most successful *40 Gallon Challenge* in the state. They held a county day-camp to teach other 4-H members about the importance of water conservation.

"We showed them the checklist of ways to save water, and explained how the program worked and what the pledge was," Satterfield said.

"We asked if they were interested, if they wanted to conserve water," Hudspeth added. "When they said yes, we had them go online and sign up to take the challenge."

And a lot of people said yes. Haskell County now leads the state in the *40 Gallon Challenge,* with pledges from community members that add up to the county pledging to save more than 2,000 gallons per day.

Both boys agree that their water projects are the biggest thing they have ever done in terms of working with others to solve a problem. And they plan to keep up with water conservation. They know that water shortages will pose a huge problem in Oklahoma unless people commit to conserving what they have by simply using less.

"It's the little things that add up," Satterfield said. "I make sure I focus on how I am using water every day, so there's no water rushing down the drain. I don't let the hose run to water plants, I fill a bucket or pitcher with water and take it to the plant. I turn off the water when I brush my teeth. Other things too. It all adds up."

And it all ties in to the four "Hs" behind 4-H: hand, health, heart and head.

Both agreed that conserving water protects the health of their community in many ways.

"And I think it was a really good way to use our hands and our heads to help the community by conserving water," Hudspeth said.

"And in leading by example, and knowing we are going to keep on doing this, we used our hearts," Satterfield added.

Tyler Satterfield and Tyler Hudspeth are examples of how change best works: believe in something, begin where you live, start with yourself, and spread the word. And then keep going.

Oklahoma 4-H iGreen

Oklahoma 4-H iGreen is an environmental conservation service-learning program. It was developed to train Oklahoma youth in water conservation, the *40 Gallon Challenge*, composting, recycling and waste management.

Teams of 4-H youth and adults are trained to work together to identify and address an environmental issue affecting their community. The teams then partner with local agencies (like county commissioners) that are associated with their selected topic or problem.

Once an issue has been identified and a partner secured, the team attends intensive, two-day training on environmental stewardship and water conservation. Then the team will return home to create an educational program (like the *40 Gallon Challenge*) and demonstration site (like the rainwater sand cistern).

The 40 Gallon Challenge

In addition to my existing water conservation practices or actions in the past, I pledge to…

INDOORS	DAILY SAVINGS*	CHECK TO PLEDGE
Run the dishwasher only when full.	2 gallons	☐
Turn off water in between rinsing dishes.	5 gallons	☐
Turn off water while brushing teeth.	8 gallons	☐
Shorten showers by 2 minutes.	5 gallons	☐
Fill the bathtub half full for bathing.	18 gallons	☐
Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.	2 gallons	☐
Wash only full loads of laundry and cut back by one load per week.	5 gallons	☐
Fix a leaky faucet.	15 gallons	☐
Fix a leaky toilet.	30 gallons	☐
Install three faucet aerators with flow restrictors on kitchen and/or bathroom faucets.	14 gallons	☐
Purchase a new, more efficient clothes washer.	10 gallons	☐
Replace old, non-efficient toilet with new low-flush toilet.	8 gallons	☐
Replace old, non-efficient showerhead with low-flow showerhead.	20 gallons	☐
OUTDOORS	**DAILY SAVINGS***	**CHECK TO PLEDGE**
Make a compost pile instead of using the garbage disposal.	4 gallons	☐
Use a 55-gallon rain barrel to capture rainwater for watering landscape or garden.	5 gallons	☐
Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks.	22 gallons	☐
Water landscape after midnight and before 10 a.m.	20 gallons	☐
Reduce irrigation runtimes by 2 minutes.	80 gallons	☐
Eliminate one irrigation cycle per week.	30 gallons	☐
Adjust sprinklers to reduce overspray onto sidewalks, driveways, etc.	20 gallons	☐
Repair at least one pipe leak or broken sprinkler head.	20 gallons	☐
Add mulch (2 to 3 inches) around trees and plants (1,000 square feet).	25 gallons	☐
Install water-efficient drip irrigation system.	20 gallons	☐
Install a "smart irrigation controller" that adjusts for temperature and precipitation.	40 gallons	☐
Use an automatic car wash that recycles water instead of hand washing cars.	18 gallons	☐
Replace 1,000 square feet of high water-use landscape with low water-use landscape.	40 gallons	☐
Repair at least one leak around pool or spa pump.	20 gallons	☐
Repair any leaking hose bibs.	20 gallons	☐
Install a pool cover to reduce evaporation.	30 gallons	☐
Install spa cover to reduce evaporation.	5 gallons	☐

**Actual water savings from these actions depends on a number of factors, including a household's water pressure, number of residents, age/efficiency of plumbing devices, size of landscapes and irrigation systems, personal behaviors, etc. These daily estimates for an average household are provided solely as an educational guideline to help the public understand and appreciate the potential impact of these actions for saving water in their region.*

TOTAL SAVINGS PLEDGED	GALLONS PER DAY

Take the pledge to conserve water. Go to http://www.40gallonchallenge.org/

The *40 Gallon Challenge* is a call for residents and businesses to reduce our region's water use on average by 40 gallons per person, per day. The challenge began in 2011 as a voluntary campaign to increase water conservation.

The *40 Gallon Challenge* encourages people to save a minimum of 40 gallons a day by adopting new water-saving techniques. The pledge card outlines water saving practices and the daily water savings to expect. You can use the pledge to review the water saving practices that you or your family currently puts to use. By pledging *new* practices, you will see the total daily savings expected for your household.

The *40 Gallon Challenge* also provides maps and charts to see pledge activities in your state and across the United States. Go to www.40gallonchallenge.org.

Here's a tip

Looking for water-saving tips and other information on water conservation? Check out these great campaigns online

Water – Use It Wisely

www.wateruseitwisely.com

Launched in 1999, the Water – Use It Wisely campaign was initially created to promote easy-to-remember, ongoing water conservation in Arizona. Fast-forward 14 years, and today, hundreds of entities — cities and towns, states, utility companies, along with organizations both private and public — from across our nation are using the Water – Use It Wisely water-saving strategies, making it one of the largest conservation educational outreach programs in the world. The campaign website offers nearly 200 water-saving tips (presented in a fun and effective way,) advice on how to perform a home "water conservation" audit, advice on buying water saving products, and much more.

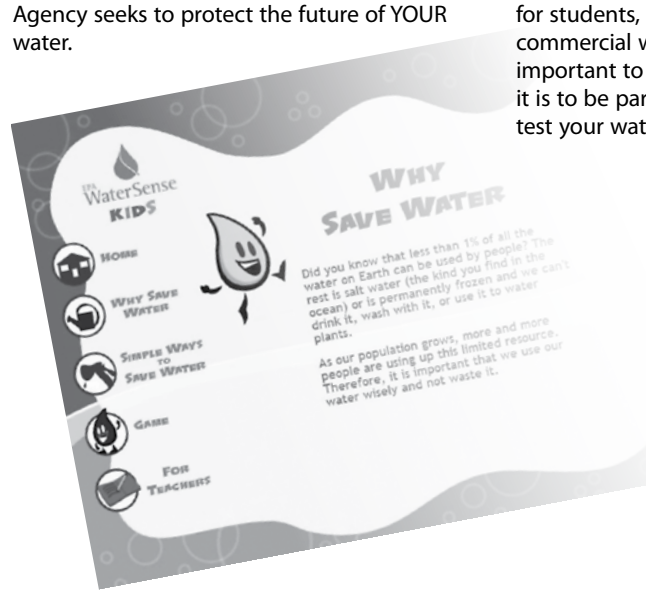
Check it all out at www.wateruseitwisely.com. Learn some great water conservation tips, and discover how a toothbrush, a broom, a timer, a shovel and other household items are all water saving devices.

And don't be surprised to learn that the No. 1 water saving "device" is YOU!

WaterSense

www.epa.gov/watersense/index.html

WaterSense offers people a host of simple ways to use less water. Whether from water-saving tips, information about water-efficient products, valuable information on new home construction, or a classroom-ready youth education program, the WaterSense partnership program by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency seeks to protect the future of YOUR water.



Since it began in 2006, the WaterSense program has helped consumers save more than 487 billion gallons of water and more than $8.9 billion in energy and water bills. That WaterSense Accomplishment Report is available on the WaterSense website.

The WaterSense website is a great place for students, teachers, and residential and commercial water consumers to learn why it's important to conserve water and how easy it is to be part of the solution. There you can test your water sense, find water saving tips, calculate water savings, find rebates near you, learn about products and services that have earned the WaterSense label and much more.

The website also has a fun and educational section, WaterSense for Kids. There, water-efficiency hero "Flo" helps kids understand the importance of saving water and shows them lots of ways to encourage their families to be water-conservation heroes too! There's even an online, interactive game kids can use to test what they learned about water conservation.

Oklahoma Blue Thumb

www.ok.gov/conservation/Agency_Divisions/Water_Quality_Division/WQ_Blue_Thumb/index.html

An often overlooked part of conserving our water resources is simply keeping our water healthy. Clean, healthy lakes, rivers and streams are waters available not only for domestic and commercial use, but also crucial to Oklahoma's $7.1 billion recreation and tourism industry. Oklahoma Blue Thumb is a water pollution and water quality education program that operates under the Oklahoma Conservation Commission Water Quality Division.

Students, Girl and Boy Scout troops, families and individual citizens are Oklahoma Blue Thumb volunteers who monitor 100 streams across Oklahoma, screen groundwater and educate the public about pollution prevention.

Okla. prevails over Texas in Red River water conflict

On June 13, in the final battle of a protracted water dispute between Oklahoma and Texas, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Tarrant Regional Water District (TRWD), a Texas water entity, *cannot* cross into Oklahoma to take water.

In a unanimous decision, which upholds the rulings of two lower federal courts, the Supreme Court held for Oklahoma on each of the main issues of law: (1) that the Red River Compact does not pre-empt the Oklahoma water statutes or give TRWD the right to cross state boundaries; and (2) that Oklahoma's water laws do not violate the Commerce Clause.

"It was a great day for all Oklahomans," said Charlette Hearne, President of Oklahomans for Responsible Water Policy (ORWP), a grassroots citizens' organization created to protect Oklahoma's water resources, environment and way of life. That group, said Hearne, was originally started when Oklahoma City and the Oklahoma Water Resources Board contracted for the transfer of almost 90% of the water from Sardis Lake to Oklahoma City.

But ORWP and the citizens of Southeast Oklahoma stood shoulder to shoulder with the state in this battle against Texas, said Hearne. "Earlier this year, ORWP submitted a friend of the court brief, called an *Amicus Curiae* Brief, in the Supreme Court. In the brief, ORWP addressed water issues common to Oklahomans whose voices are usually muffled by the money and influence of large cities and bordering states."

Hearne, who attended the oral arguments for the case in Washington, DC in April, believes the ORWP Amicus brief, which argued water as community rather than commodity, was an important part of the information that helped the Supreme Court justices make their decision.

"It was obvious the judges had read our brief. We want to thank our attorneys for showing the human aspect of this problem, a problem that often is painted as all about money rather than people. Our attorneys helped ORWP and the state protect a way of life here in Southeast Oklahoma."

At the heart of the suit was the interpretation of the Red River Compact, a 30-year-old congressionally ratified agreement between Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. Part of that compact allowed each state 25% of water from a certain segment of the Red River under specific flow conditions.

COURTESY

Tarrant asserted it did not have to take its own share from the Red River, but could cross into Oklahoma and draw fresh waters from the state before those waters flowed into the Red River.

It was a water battle that was being closely watched around the country, and June's SCOTUS decision will influence interstate water compacts common to Western states.

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**Titles and organizations' names for identification purposes only*

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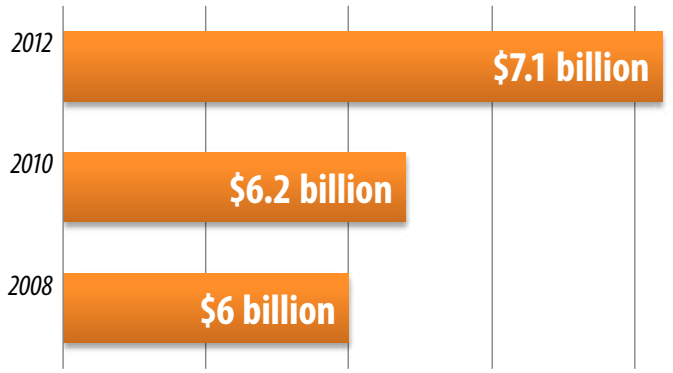
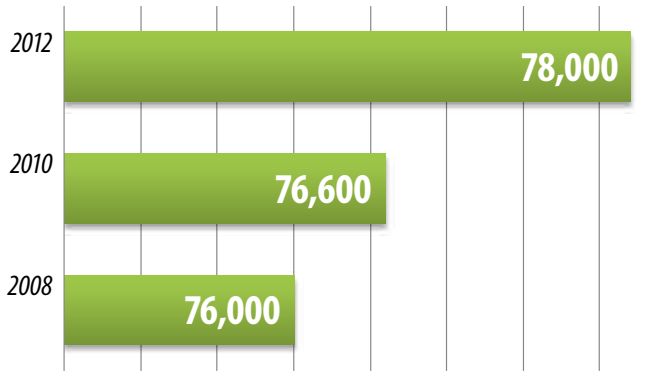
Conserving Oklahoma's precious waters protects our state's third largest industry, the ***$7.1 billion tourism and recreation industry***. Much of that travel and recreation happens on or around Oklahoma's beautiful lakes, rivers and streams.

Over the last few years, our growing tourism industry has sent ***billions*** to federal, state and local tax coffers, supported jobs directly and indirectly related to tourism, and pumped ***billions*** of dollars into Oklahoma's economy.

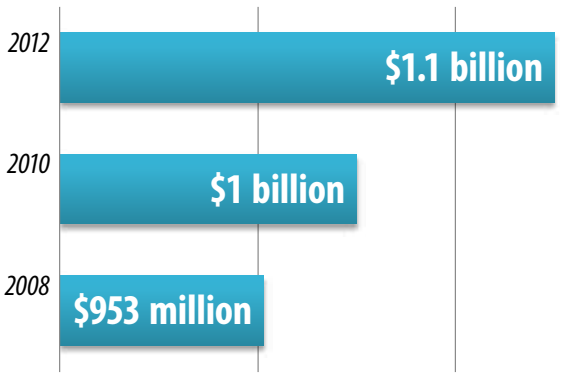
Oklahoma's tourism-related expenditures



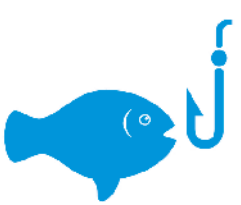
Tourism-related Oklahoma jobs



Federal, state and local taxes generated by local tourism



Water related tourism and recreation includes hunting, fishing and fishing tournaments, wildlife watching, boating, swimming, water-skiing, camping, wake-boarding, hiking and more. Those tourists also spend dollars shopping, eating and staying at cabins, hotels, local bed and breakfast inns or other lodging facilities.



Check out hunting and fishing expenditures in Oklahoma. While money spent on hunting and fishing equipment and related travel added up to more than $1.5 billion in 2011,* that is still ***only a fraction*** of the tourism and recreation dollars generated by Oklahoma's water.

Activity	*Equipment sales*	*Trip-related spending*	*Total expenditures*
Fishing	$554,802,000	$175,701,000	$730,503,000
Hunting	$246,507,000	$109,173,000	$355,680,000
Wildlife watching	$366,743,000	$107,919,000	$474,662,000
			$1,560,845,000

*2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation — Oklahoma *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau*