

The official car of 2014.

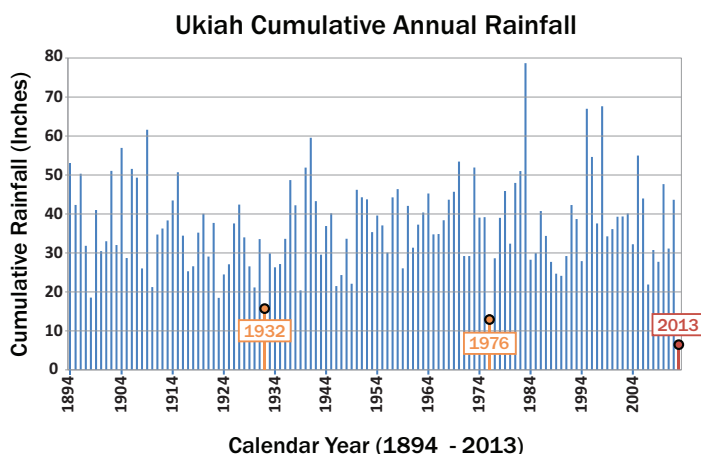


There's a Drought On. Turn the Water Off.

Dear Neighbor,

Several consecutive dry years preceding the driest year on record in 2013 has culminated into drought conditions in the region and across California.

Despite recent rainfall, water supply levels in both Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma remain below average. As of February 11, 2014, we still need more than 17" inches of rainfall to meet average conditions for this time of year. The graph below showing annual rainfall in Ukiah for the 2013 calendar year compared with previous years illustrates the incredibly dry weather the region is experiencing.



Graph data derived from daily precipitation measurements recorded at the National Climatic Data Center station #9122 in Ukiah.

Rainfall Data (Jan. 1, 2013 to Dec. 30, 2013):

- Ukiah Basin: 7.8 inches (Average: 33 inches)
- Santa Rosa Basin: 5.7 inches (Average: 32.5 inches)

- Marin Municipal Water District: 10.68 inches (Average: 52 inches)

Many residents of Sonoma and Marin counties receive their drinking water from reservoirs such as Lake Mendocino, Lake Sonoma and Lake Lagunitas. As a result of this unprecedented drought, reservoirs are at historic lows. Of particular concern is Lake Mendocino, a key drinking water source for the cities of Ukiah, Healdsburg, Cloverdale, and Hopland. While there is no immediate water supply threat to the communities that rely on Lake Sonoma, being proactive in case of another dry year is critical given two consecutive previous extremely dry years.

Many other local residents receive their water from groundwater wells. Groundwater is also replenished gradually over time by rainfall which drains into underground aquifers (reservoirs for groundwater). Lack of rainfall depletes the amount of water in the aquifers, which may affect well water production.

In order to preserve our limited water supply, we need your help! The back of this letter contains some simple ways to save water. Small actions can make a big difference. For more information, water-saving tips, and available rebates, visit wateroff.org

Thanks for reducing your water use!

The official dishwasher of 2014.



You might be surprised by how much water you use. The typical water use in Sonoma and Marin counties is 119 gallons per person every day. Outdoor use for landscaping and pools accounts for almost half of this use. Big indoor water users are the toilet, showers/baths, and clothes washers. The following tips will help you to find ways to reduce your water use.

There's a Drought On. Turn the Water Off.

| Outdoor Conservation Tips | Estimated Savings | Indoor Conservation Tips | Estimated Savings |
|--|---|---|------------------------------------|
| Use a broom instead of a hose to clean driveways and sidewalks | 8-18 gallons per day | Run the dishwasher only when full | 1 - 2 gallons per day |
| Replace a portion of lawn with beautiful native, water-wise, California-friendly plants | 33-60 gallons per day per 1,000 sq ft. depending on climate | Turn water off when rinsing dishes | 5 - 10 gallons per day |
| Install covers on pools and spas to reduce evaporation | 30 gallons per day | Turn water off when brushing teeth | 4 gallons per day |
| Get a self-closing nozzle for your hose | 8-18 gallons per day | Shorten showers | 10 gallons per day |
| Water only in the late evening or early morning hours to reduce evaporation and interference from wind | 20-25 gallons per day | Don't use the toilet as a wastebasket | 2 gallons per day |
| Adjust sprinklers to prevent overspray and runoff | 15-25 gallons per day | Fix leaky toilets | 30 - 50 gallons per day per toilet |
| Repair leaks and broken sprinkler heads | 50-100 gallons per day | Fix leaky faucets | 15 - 20 gallons per day per leak |
| · Reduce each irrigation cycle by 1-3 minutes, or eliminate one irrigation cycle per week. | 100-165 gallons per day | Replace older, inefficient clothes washers | 20 - 30 gallons per day |
| · Water only after the top inch of soil is dry | | Replace older, high-volume toilets | 6 - 10 gallons per day |
| · Adjust irrigation controllers and replace batteries in the spring and fall | | Wash only full loads of clothes | 15 - 48 gallons per day |
| Add 2" - 3" of mulch around trees and plants to reduce evaporation | 20-25 gallons per day | Install low flow aerators on kitchen and bathroom faucets | 4.7 gallons per day |
| Upgrade to a "smart irrigation controller" that automatically adjusts watering times for hotter weather, and shuts down the system when it rains | 40 gallons per day | Install hot water on-demand system | 5 - 20 gallons per day |
| Install water-efficient drip irrigation systems for trees, shrubs, and flowers to get water to the plant's roots more efficiently | 20-25 gallons per day | | |

Get creative! Don't limit yourself to this list. Use a bucket or watering can to capture otherwise wasted water while waiting for it to get warm—then water your plants with the water saved! Use saved bathwater to flush your toilet by adding it directly to your toilet (don't put it in the tank though). How many other ways can you think of to save?