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oving water around uses vast amounts of energy which in turn puts pollution into our atmosphere. Wasting water helps cause climatic change. The Isle of Wight imports around 25% of its water from the mainland.

Using paper and plastic made from recycled materials helps save water. Making recycled plastic uses 90% less water compared to manufacturing new plastic.

Recycled paper uses around 50% less water and energy than making virgin paper. This leaflet is printed on recycled paper by Crossprint, Newport using vegetable-based inks.

here are some ways you can conserve water in your home and garden...

compost saves water

Isle of Wight compost is excellent mulch and soil improver, helping to retain moisture in the ground. It is available from Isle of Wight Compost, phone 200912. The company also offers a topsoil and compost mix along with well-rotted horse manure. You can also make your own compost and become a Compost Champion. For details contact the council's recycling officer on 821000 or visit www.iwight.com/recycling

Various membranes are available from garden and DIY stores. Old carpet and carpet underlay are also good for retaining water.

saving the rain

Rainwater harvesting is the new buzzword amongst gardeners and developers. Water butts and 'diverters' for downpipes are available from local garden centres such as Thompsons and hardware retailers including Hurst and B&Q.

More high-tech systems are available from builders merchants, including Moreys, and from Island-based www.engenius.co.uk phone 247981. Use solar power or manual pumps to move water rather than mains electricity.

NuCan, a very efficient watering can invented on the Isle of Wight, delivers water at the push of a button without wasting a drop. For more information visit www.nucan.co.uk

Lawns

Don't cut lawns too harshly. The grass should be no shorter than 5cm (2 inches). Too short and the wind and sun will dry out the ground below.

Over-watering prevents the roots from reaching their full potential. Instead they seek out water from near the surface. Allowing some of the lawn to grow long will benefit wildlife and remove the need to water.

helping wildlife

You can help wildlife by providing a rainwater-fed wildlife pond. Avoid using tap water as this is harmful to wildlife. Create shade for the pond using fencing, a pergola or floating cork tiles. Avoid very sunny locations for ponds, too much sun causes algae and evaporation.

Save your local pond, become a Pond Warden. Details from the Footprint Trust, phone 82-22-82 or visit www.footprint-trust.co.uk



in the garden

home composting

Home composting saves money, saves energy, saves water and provides free garden compost year after year. By converting material that is considered rubbish into a valuable resource, nutrients are recycled back into the soil. Through the Isle of Wight Council, householders can purchase cut price home compost bins, wormeries and water butts. For further information and to order call 0844 571 4444 or visit www.iow.getcomposting.com

pink
Bay
Blue fescue
lavender

rosemary
Thyme
Barberry
allium

Rock rose
ceanothus
ice plant
hebe

Planters and hanging baskets

These dry out very quickly in dry and hot conditions. Placing planters in large plastic 'saucers' to act as reservoirs can help reduce water loss. Burying the bottom ten per cent of planters into the ground allows the compost to draw moisture from the soil below. Buy hanging baskets that contain reservoirs - these reduce water wastage and time spent watering.

Plants you don't water

Use plants that require little or no watering. Many of these, such as rosemary and lavender, also attract wildlife to your garden. Visit Ventnor Botanic Garden or look at the council's drought-tolerant planting for inspiration. We have chosen twelve plants (left) which are suitable for small gardens and can survive drought conditions. Many others are available.

in the home

bathroom basics

A dripping hot tap could cost you about £75 per year in water and energy charges – please get it fixed!

Have a shower rather than a bath. Have shorter showers; use an hourglass or digital timer to monitor the time. You should not use the water shortage as an excuse for dodging the soap! Sorry kids! If you don't have a shower have a shallow bath with just enough water to cover your vegetables...

Do not leave the tap running when cleaning your teeth. Use a plastic cup to rinse.

Place a 'save-a-flush' bag in your old nine litre toilet cistern or replace it with a low flush four litre cistern. Visit www.waterwise.org.uk

It is doesn't rot don't let it plop! Only flush things that will rot away. If it's not tissue it will be an issue! You could block your drain, flood your home and face a big bill.

drinking

Drink tap water. Bottled water is an over-packaged commodity, often containing toxins and sometimes far from 'natural.'

cooking champion

Use a washing up bowl as these use less water than a sink. Or get a modern low water (ten litres) and energy-efficient dishwasher. Available from local retailers or John Lewis or Co-op online.



Collect the run-off cold water from the hot tap in a watering can or bucket and use it for cleaning and watering plants.

Use a steamer or a microwave. They use less water and energy and help conserve vitamins and minerals. Put a lid on your saucepans with just enough water to cover your vegetables.

Cleaning carefully

Don't follow the bad example shown in TV ads for laundry products that show only washing one item. Make sure that your machine is full, but not over full as clothes will not clean properly.

Leaks

Report any outdoor leaks to Southern Water on Freephone Leakline 0800 820 999.

saving money

Contact the Footprint Trust's Energetic scheme for ways to waste less and save money. Tel 82-22-82.

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saving water

a splash in the Solent?



Saving water is something we should all do regardless of droughts. Water is a precious commodity which is needed by wildlife, farming, industry, hospitals and households.

The Footprint Trust has teamed up with The ScottishPower Energy People Trust to help us all save more money on our energy and water bills. Supported by the West Wight Landscape Partnership.

we can all help save water and not just by bathing with a friend!

