

Water/ Utilities Report

By Joan Licari

California had its warmest and third-driest winter on record, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center. Individuals in Southern California are urged to save water whenever possible. This is particularly true in your garden that typically involves the highest percentage of demand for a household. To encourage new behaviors, a set of rebates on water saving and energy saving devices are offered.

Water and Energy saving websites and rebate programs:

Check sites listed below if considering any changes in appliances, lighting, gardens (I,e, eliminating lawns) for possible rebates.

SCE.com for rebate program Southern California Edison

<http://www.bulbs.com/socal Edison.aspx> Discounts on energy saving bulbs.

<https://www.bewaterwise.com/> Web site with information on saving water in your garden, in your home rebates, and classes.

<http://socalwatersmart>

An example of a rebate available: Rainbarrels

From



socalwatersmart.com/

Collecting and re-using rainwater from gutters and downspouts for lawns and gardens minimizes the amount of water flowing into your storm drains, sewer systems and local waterways. Plants and microbes prefer rainwater because it is naturally "soft" and free of chlorine, fluoride and other chemicals.

Rebates start at \$75 per barrel



Rain Barrel Guidelines:

1. Minimum size: 50 gallons
2. Rain barrel must be designed for the intended purpose of rain capture
3. Should have a cover to prevent mosquitos, rodents and debris from entering
4. The rain barrel must be mounted in a way that allows the barrel to receive water unimpeded from a rain gutter.
5. Should not block or restrict access to walkways or pathways
6. Rain barrel must not be connected to the irrigation system and must be distributed through a hose or bucket
7. Should be elevated 6 inches off the ground on a solid foundation
8. Should be strapped to your home for safety if the height of the barrel is two times greater than the width
9. Maximum of four rain barrels per home