

EAH Housing Water Contest

Do Your Part, Be Water Smart

Contest Guidelines & Instructions

I. Introduction

This August EAH Housing is launching a portfolio-wide Water Contest! From **September 1 to November 30**, compete with other properties to see who can save the most water.

Contest Website: www.eahhousingwatercontest.weebly.com

The following guidelines are a resource for you to launch a successful saving campaign at your property site. Follow the below guidelines closely or generate your own set of ideas for a saving campaign. Get creative and connect with other properties around ways they're saving water!

II. Goals

- Reduce water consumption by 20%* (* your water usage will be compared to the previous year)
- Compete with other EAH properties to see who can save the most
- Educate properties on the importance of water conservation
- Empower residents to make water-saving behavior changes

III. Roles

Property Supervisors, Property Managers, Resident Resource Coordinators and residents all have an important role in the Contest! Supervisors and Managers can assist with completing the Contest Sign-Up form, it asks questions about the make and operations of your property. Managers and Resource Coordinators are the campaign planning champions – they'll help set a plan for how to reduce water consumption on site.

Partner SEI will be your Water Contest support throughout the competition. Don't hesitate to reach their team with any questions or support needs. **Contact:**

EAH	SEI
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IV. Metrics – How we measure our progress

Do It On Your Own:

Property managers (those with access to water bills) have the option to self-report out on their regular water usage using their utility bill data from their water district. Using the usage information on your water bill, monitor CCF (*centum cubic feet*, 1CCF = 748 gallons) used during the current month and compare to the same month or time period in the previous year. Track your current usage by writing it down on the Drip Board (pictured on the right). At the end of the competition, total CCF usage over the 3 contest months will be compared to the previous year to determine winners.

Sample percent reduction calculation:

May 2017: 15 CCF used

May 2016: 20 CCF used

$$\frac{\text{change in amount}}{\text{original amount}} \times 100\% = \text{Percent decrease}$$
$$\frac{20 - 15}{20} \times 100\% = \text{Percent decrease}$$
$$\frac{5}{20} \times 100\% = \text{Percent decrease}$$
$$25 = \text{Percent decrease}$$

(In this sample calculation, we see a 25% reduction)

You can color code your results on your Drip Board as you go: green (high reduction in usage) and red (little to no reduction in usage or increase). Share your progress with others online through Yammer and social media using the hashtag **#H2Ocontest** and **#KeepSavingCA** or **#KeepSavingHI**.

Data Updates from SEI:

If you don't have access to your utility data or Drip Board, SEI Staff will also have access to your site's data through WeGoWise. We will be sending out data updates as frequently as possible.

When gathering data, there is a delay, so we thank you for your patience as all water data is entered into our system.



V. Communications – Stay in the loop

Proudly display your Drip Board, or any contest posters and announcements in the main office or community room for everyone to see. This is the main contest visual for your site.

Properties are strongly encouraged to display additional signage of their own, along with images and information shared by EAH. Take advantage of the creativity and talent of your residents to make posters, banners, and other outreach material as well.

Join the Contest Group on Yammer and share updates with other properties. Post images, videos and more.

Use **#H2Ocontest** to show off your water-saving campaign materials online.

Keep an eye out for water contest news and updates from the EAH team and [visit the contest website](#) for additional resources and tips.

VI. Suggested Contest Structure & Activities

Below is a suggested contest structure and list of activities. The water contest does not have an official start time for all properties, enabling resource coordinators and property managers to determine a date that works best for their site.

I. Contest Launch September 2017

The “We Campaign” - Host a lunch or dinner at your site to celebrate the start of the contest. Explain the contest and engage residents in the contest and challenge them to conserve water by participating in the “We Campaign”. Have residents write out a water-saving pledge (I will take shorter showers. I will wash only full loads of laundry etc.) and take a photo with their commitment. Hang these photos and commitments up in the property common area for display by all community members to show what WE are doing as a community to save water.

I. Water Wise Meet-Up 1 September 2017

Share a water documentary with your residents.

At the end of the film have your audience come up with an engaging list of facts on why it's crucial to save water. Distribute this list to your neighbors and share around the site. Offer an additional round of “We Campaign” pledges and photos.

II. Water Wise Meet-Up 2 October 2017

Start a youth green team group. Host a meeting with fun, educational activities and empower these water heroes to check for leaks around the property and remind their

neighbors to keep saving. Offer an additional round of “We Campaign” pledges and photos.

III. **Water Wise Meet-Up 3 November 2017**

Host a lecture! Bring in a local representative from your water provider, an activist, environmental professional or another individual working in the field of water to talk about their industry and work. Ask for their advice on how to save water at your site! Offer an additional round of “We Campaign” pledges and photos.

Other Activity Suggestions: *Hold a poster design contest. Host a sustainability fair. Create door signs for homes who pledge to conserve, run a pledge-drive. Take a field trip to your local watershed or water treatment plant. Have a water battle with another property for one month, see who can reduce the most, then challenge another property.*

VII. **Contest Timeline:**

August 25th – Water Contest Sign-Up Deadline

September 1st – Water Contest Launches

November 30th – Water Contest Ends

Resources

- <http://saveourwater.com>
- <http://www.gracelinks.org/1297/how-to-save-water>
- <http://wateruseitwisely.com>
- <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>