

**EXECUTIVE ORDER  
2021-10**

Requiring Water Conservation Due to Drought Conditions

**WHEREAS**, the state of Utah experienced a record dry and near record hot calendar year in 2020;

**WHEREAS**, the statewide snowpack reached approximately 81% of normal and peaked 10 days early;

**WHEREAS**, soil moisture reached exceptionally low levels not previously seen since soil moisture monitoring began in 2006;

**WHEREAS**, low soil moisture has already adversely affected the spring runoff;

**WHEREAS**, the state's reservoir storage has decreased 14% over the past year;

**WHEREAS**, all forecasts for spring runoff for the state are below 76% of the state seasonal average;

**WHEREAS**, the United States Department of Agriculture currently has listed 28 primary and one contiguous county in Utah under the Secretarial Disaster Designation for drought;

**WHEREAS**, these extreme drought conditions have adversely and significantly impacted agribusiness and livestock production, as well as wildlife and natural habitats;

**WHEREAS**, increased recreation in dry vegetative conditions has contributed to an increased and prolonged threat of wildfire across the state;

**WHEREAS**, drought conditions that require mitigation are expected to persist;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Spencer J. Cox, Governor of the State of Utah, hereby order the following:

1. As used in this Order:
  - a. "State facility" means a building or structure that is owned or controlled by the state or a state governmental entity.
  - b. "State facility" does not mean a building or structure that is owned or controlled exclusively by:
    - i. the legislative branch of the state;
    - ii. the judicial branch of the state;
    - iii. the Attorney General's Office;
    - iv. the State Auditor's Office;
    - v. the State Treasurer's Office;
    - vi. the State Board of Education; or
    - vii. an independent entity as defined in Utah Code § 63E-1-102.
  - c. "State governmental entity" means any department, board, commission, institution, agency, or institution of higher education.
2. A state governmental entity may not water landscapes at a state facility between 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
3. A state governmental entity shall do the following at all state facilities:
  - a. follow the [conservewater.utah.gov](https://conservewater.utah.gov) weekly lawn watering guide;
  - b. evaluate opportunities to update irrigation technology with devices that are WaterSense certified and include rain and wind shutoff functions and soil moisture sensors;
  - c. manually shut off systems during rain and wind events in areas without rain and wind sensors;
  - d. audit and repair all landscape irrigation systems so they are operating at maximum acceptable efficiency;
  - e. evaluate opportunities to limit turf areas surrounding facilities and replace turf with waterwise plants;
  - f. evaluate opportunities to replace inefficient plumbing fixtures with WaterSense certified low-flow fixtures;
  - g. evaluate opportunities to update facility-management technology to include metering for water-consuming processes related to irrigation, domestic, and mechanical systems;
  - h. implement leak-detection and repair programs for both indoor and outdoor water use;
  - i. conduct periodic checks of state facility restrooms, boiler rooms, etc., to ensure appliances are working at maximum efficiency;
  - j. use the Utah Division of Water Resources as a resource to implement water efficient methods, technologies, and practices.

I further make the following recommendations:

1. Water suppliers and irrigation companies should:
  - a. where possible, delay the start of the irrigation season or end irrigation early;
  - b. encourage efficient landscape watering; and
  - c. as needed, contact the Division of Water Resources for assistance with developing a drought response plan.
2. Cities and counties should consider developing and implementing water restriction plans for the upcoming irrigation season. Also, consider implementing the same practices that are recommended for state facilities at city and county buildings.
3. Residential water users should consider the following conservation practices:
  - a. delay outdoor irrigation or end irrigation early;
  - b. follow the weekly lawn watering guide at <https://conservewater.utah.gov/guide.html>;
  - c. fix irrigation inefficiencies;
  - d. purchase and install a smartcontroller or low-flow toilet (rebates are offered at [utahwatersavers.com](https://utahwatersavers.com));
  - e. reduce indoor water use by taking shorter showers, turning off water when not in use, and replacing appliances with water-efficient models;
  - f. follow the directions of local water providers;
  - g. convert turf areas to waterwise landscapes;
  - h. be an advocate of water efficiency by setting an example and help educate friends and neighbors on the importance of water conservation; and
  - i. reduce indoor water waste.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until otherwise modified, amended, rescinded, or superseded.

**IN WITNESS, WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Utah. Done in Salt Lake City, Utah, on this, the 3rd day of May, 2021.

(State Seal)

**Spencer J. Cox**  
**Governor**

ATTEST:

**Deidre M. Henderson**  
**Lieutenant Governor**

2021/10/EO