



Drought Conditions Worsen



A public hearing to consider escalating to a drought warning for NJ's 12 northern counties is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, in the Millburn Free Public Library auditorium, 200 Glen Avenue in Millburn.

A drought warning for the following 12 counties — in which millions of New Jerseyans rely on the public water supply — could be issued as early as Thursday: Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Morris, Ocean, Passaic, Somerset, and Union. Those counties have been under a DEP-issued drought watch since July. In addition, the DEP has expanded the drought watch to include Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, Monmouth, Ocean, and Salem counties. All but three counties — Atlantic, Cape May and Cumberland — are under a formal drought designation.

A drought watch seeks voluntary water conservation; the more serious drought warning enables the DEP to require water purveyors to take action to conserve and secure drinking water sources.

Please ask your municipal officials and public works departments to skip lawn watering and post the drought watch declaration on your municipal website and community bulletin boards.

ANJEC recommends water conservation throughout the Garden State. Groundwater sources and streams are classified as moderately, severely or extremely dry for the remainder of the state outside of the drought watch area.

<http://njdrought.org/status.html>

Please conserve water by:

- Forgoing lawn watering or watering lawns and outdoor plants no more than 2-3 times per week for no more than 30 minutes. This allows the soil to absorb the water and enables roots to grow more deeply, which encourages drought tolerance;
- Never water during the heat of the day, as this promotes evaporation and leads to water waste; water in early morning hours instead.
- For more water saving tips, visit: **<http://www.sjwatersavers.org/tips-and-resources1.html>**

Ask Governor Christie to release the Water Supply Plan

Christie sits on water plan as N.J.'s drought affects drinking water

Join the SaveH2OCoalition's efforts and sign the petition to the Governor at: **<http://www.saveh2onj.org/sign-the-petition/>**

Thank you for your conservation efforts!

Most sincerely,
Jennifer M. Coffey

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