



Spencer J. Cox
Governor

**EXECUTIVE ORDER
2023-07**

Requiring Water Conservation at State Facilities and Increasing Utah's Drought Resiliency

WHEREAS, Utah is one of the driest states in the nation;

WHEREAS, some portion of the state has experienced drought conditions nearly every year since 2000;

WHEREAS, Utah experienced “extreme” and “exceptional” drought conditions in 2021 and 2022, as categorized by the U.S. Drought Monitor;

WHEREAS, the Great Salt Lake broke its record low in 2021 and then again in November 2022;

WHEREAS, water-saving actions during the past two years have kept more water in our reservoirs than we would have had with typical use;

WHEREAS, the valiant efforts of individual Utahns across the state help to maintain water supplies, even as Utah's population grows;

WHEREAS, Utahns have conserved billions of gallons of water in past conservation efforts;

WHEREAS, even in wet years, Utah needs to prepare for drought conditions;

WHEREAS, maintaining and expanding existing water-saving measures will increase Utah's drought resiliency;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Spencer J. Cox, governor of the state of Utah, hereby order the following for state facilities:

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:
 - i. a building or structure that is owned or controlled exclusively by:
 - A. the legislative branch of the state;
 - B. the judicial branch of the state;
 - C. the Attorney General’s Office;
 - D. the State Auditor’s Office;
 - E. the State Treasurer’s Office;
 - F. the State Board of Education;
 - G. an independent entity as defined in Utah Code § 63E-1-102;
 - ii. an unoccupied structure that is a component of the state highway system;
 - iii. a privately owned structure that is located on property owned by the state, the state’s department, commission, institution, or other state agency; or
 - iv. a structure that is located on land administered by the trust lands administration under a lease, permit, or contract with the trust lands administration.
- c. “State governmental entity” means any department, board, commission, institution, agency, or institution of higher education.

2. Each agency shall:

- (a) assess the agency’s compliance with the water conservation requirements for state facilities in Utah Code § 63A-5b-1108;
- (b) coordinate with the Division of Facilities Construction and Management and the Division of Water Resources to implement and follow the requirements in Subsection 2(a);
- (c) submit the information on agency water use required in Utah Code § 63A-5b-1108(3)(b) to the Division of Facilities Construction and Management in addition to the Division of Water Resources; and
- (d) as required in Utah Code § 63A-5b-1108(5)(a), follow the Division of Water Resources’ weekly watering guide: <https://conservewater.utah.gov/weekly-lawn-watering-guide/>.

I further make the following recommendations:

1. I recommend that water suppliers and irrigation companies:
 - 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 and water conservation plan.
2. I recommend that cities and counties:
 - a. develop and adopt water efficiency standards for new construction in all sectors (residential, commercial, institutional and industrial);
 - b. evaluate opportunities to:
 - i. limit lawn on the grounds of a city government facility and replace lawn with waterwise plants or other waterwise landscapes; and
 - ii. update facility-management technology to include metering for water-consuming processes related to irrigation and mechanical systems;
3. I recommend that residential water users consider the following conservation practices:
 - a. delay outdoor irrigation or end irrigation early;

- b. follow the Division of Water Resources' weekly watering guide provided at <https://conservewater.utah.gov/weekly-lawn-watering-guide/>;
- c. fix irrigation inefficiencies;
- d. purchase and install a smart controller or low-flow toilet (rebates are offered at <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 nonfunctional grass areas to waterwise landscapes; and
- h. 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 10th day of May 2023.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Spencer J. Cox".

Spencer J. Cox
Governor, State of Utah

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deidre M. Henderson".

Deidre M. Henderson
Lieutenant Governor, State of Utah

ATTEST: