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GOING GREEN CAN HELP RESIDENTS SAVE WATER AND SAVE MONEY

-waterSmart offers tips for the environment and wallets -

ATLANTA (April 30, 2009) –Metro Atlanta residents looking for ways to save money are finding that being “green” can save more than the environment. Small changes to daily habits can help residents conserve water drop by drop, adding up to big water savings and lower utility bills.

For more than nine years, waterSmartSM, a water conservation education program created by Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA), has been helping metro-Atlantans of all ages be more water conscious. waterSmart continues to provide cost-effective water conservation tips and projects both inside and outside the home to help people save water, time and money.

Follow these water conservation tips and start seeing savings on your water bill:

- ◆ **Fix leaky toilets** – fixing just one leaky toilet can save more than 5,000 gallons of water per month, or an average of \$18 per month on a water bill
- ◆ **Turn off the faucet while brushing your teeth** – turning on the faucet only to wet your toothbrush and rinse can save nine gallons each time you brush. For a family of three that brushes two times a day, this can save more than 18,000 gallons of water a year, or \$63.
- ◆ **Run your washing machine with full loads** – maximizing your washing machine’s efficiency can save the average family up to 700 gallons of water per month, or approximately \$29 per year
- ◆ **Take shorter showers** – reducing shower time by just five minutes can save the average family 21,000 gallons of water per year, or \$74
- ◆ **Fix leaking faucets** – fixing just one leaky faucet right away can save more than 20,000 gallons of water a year, or more than \$70

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- ◆ **Install a low-flow showerhead** – low-flow showerheads are affordable, easy to install and will reduce water usage by 50 percent compared to a normal showerhead. This can save the average family 21,000 gallons of water a year, a water bill saving of approximately \$74 per year.
- ◆ **Turn off the faucet while washing your hands** – turning on the faucet only to wet your hands and rinse can add up to a savings of more than 22,000 gallons of water a year, or \$77.

These savings can make a big difference in the family budget and can even double in value for residents that pay monthly sewer fees in addition to water use.

“By implementing simple water conservation habits, people can reduce their water bill, as well as ensure a sustainable supply of fresh water now and in the future,” says Becky Mixon, waterSmart program director. “waterSmart encourages residents to be water conservation advocates within the community and at home.”

For more information on how to conserve water every day please visit www.watersmart.net.

About waterSmart

The waterSmartSM program was initiated by the Cobb County-Marietta Water Authority (CCMWA) in 2000 to educate their service area residents of all ages about the importance of indoor and outdoor water conservation and to help encourage sustainable, year-round conservation, regardless of climate conditions. The CCMWA is in its ninth year of providing the waterSmart program to the community. For more information on water conservation and waterSmart, visit www.waterSmart.net.

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