

Fresno State announces water conservation plan

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In light of California's ongoing drought, Fresno State has announced an aggressive water conservation plan aimed at reducing campus water usage by 20% -- 59.8 million gallons -- in the coming year.

"It's important for us to serve as an example in the community on ways we can all conserve water," said Bob Boyd, the university's associate vice president for facilities management.

The plan outlines a reduction of 7.5 million gallons of water usage per month during the growing season from March to October by limiting irrigation, which has been estimated as two-thirds of the university's water usage in past years.

Other water-saving measures include improving irrigation techniques, planting drought-tolerant plants and testing hydrogel injections below turf that requires a significant amount of water.

"It's a matter of teaching our lawns to drink differently," Boyd said.

The hydrogels, which are intended to improve absorption of water and nutrients, will be used in campus areas such as the Peace Garden, Bulldog Diamond and the Maple Mall in preparation for the Vintage Days spring festival.

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