

# Water Efficiency and Conservation: Important Even When Water is Abundant



Water efficiency and conservation are typically the fastest and least expensive ways to help ensure that communities and agriculture have access to affordable, sustainable water supplies. Climate change is fueling hotter, dryer weather, and nearly every state experienced drought in 2022, which was the worst drought in hundreds of years in the Western U.S.

However, water efficiency and conservation offer multiple sustainability benefits beyond keeping the water running, just as energy efficiency does more than keep the lights on. It's time to **de-bunk the common misperception** that water efficiency and conservation are only important in arid regions or when drought sets in.

## A brief overview of water efficiency and conservation's other benefits:

### Mitigating climate change

by reducing energy use and greenhouse gas emissions associated with heating, pumping, and treating water/wastewater.



### Adapting to climate change

by making communities more resilient to drought and heavy rain events.



### Reducing costs for businesses

and supporting corporate sustainability goals.

### Making more water available

to support healthy stream flows and lake levels for plants and animals.



### Reducing

the need to build or expand expensive drinking water and wastewater systems.



### Limiting nutrient runoff

associated with landscape and agriculture.

### Helping communities manage water shortages

related to water quality problems.



### Using technologies

that detect leaks to save water and help prevent property damage.

Making water bills more affordable.



Minimizing land subsidence linked to excess groundwater withdrawals.