



August 20, 2018

Northern Area D Water Conservation Education Program Showing Promise

Campbell River, BC – The Strathcona Regional District (SRD) water conservation education program has been running in Northern Area D since late June 2018. The program focuses on raising awareness of local watering restrictions and providing information to residents on how to improve the health of their lawns without using more water.

“We are impressed to see the amount of brown lawns throughout Northern Area D. It is clear that people are practicing conservation by not watering or sprinkling as much to help conserve water during this drought,” says SRD Water Conservation Educator Luisa Richardson. “The majority of residents have been adhering to the Stage 2 water restrictions, but in the few instances where people haven’t, we have been knocking on doors and sharing information regarding the water schedule. The restrictions apply to all sprinklers and soaker hoses used for outdoor vegetation watering, including gardens, lawns and plants.”

The SRD is ready to move into the next step of Stage 2 watering restriction which is enforcement.

“Our water education conservation team have done an amazing job in letting people know when they are watering outside of the restrictions. We still have a small pocket of people who are not complying, and we will be moving to the next level of enforcement, which may include fines of up to \$500, or the installation of a water meter at the property owner’s cost,” says Jenny Brunn, SRD Environmental Services Coordinator.

Given the forecast for continued heat throughout August, water conservation education efforts will continue, and the watering restrictions will remain in place until October 7, 2018. The education program also has a dedicated water conservation hotline and email account, 250-203-1820 and water@srd.ca, which residents can use to ask questions, request more information and report excessive use.

In conjunction with this program, an audit is being completed to ensure all residences within the service area are captured within the water system. SRD staff have developed a Water Demand Management Plan which the Board has approved, and will be included as part of a Universal Water Metering grant application. The results of the grant application will become available in the spring of 2019 and if successful, meter installation would start shortly after.

The Strathcona Regional District is a partnership of four electoral areas and five municipalities providing services to approximately 43,000 residents.

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