



Olga Hernandez won a car wash for posting her drought-tolerant garden.

## Saving Water has its Rewards! See Our Capture Conservation Winners!

This past summer Ventura Water launched Capture Conservation, a photo contest aimed at highlighting the Ventura community's response to the call to water conservation. Check out a few of our winners!

As part of Ventura Water's annual summer awareness campaign, residents were invited to share photos of how the drought has inspired them to save

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**Dear Valued Customer,**

Thanksgiving traditionally heralds the holiday shopping season – Black Friday and Cyber Monday. So, are you thinking of that perfect gift that someone won't return, put in the back of the closet or re-gift to a mutual acquaintance? Below are some of Ventura Water's favorite water-saving gift suggestions for 2016:

- **Toilet:** Save up to 40,000 gallons annually with Niagara's new ultra-high efficiency Stealth 0.8 gallons per flush (GPF) toilet and save water and money for years to come.
- **Plant drought-resistant lawns, shrubs and plants:** If you are planting a new lawn, use drought-resistant grasses such as Kurapia, a low-water groundcover developed for drought conditions that is tolerant of different soils and a range of temperatures.
- **Washer:** For those families that have worn out the legacy washing machine, purchase a high-efficiency washer and don't forget to apply for a \$75 rebate with Ventura Water (visit

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water. Contestants took a photo that captured their water conservation story and posted the photo to Instagram, Facebook or Twitter with the hashtag #keepsavingventura. Our winners went above and beyond the call of duty to minimize their water footprint!

Contest winners were awarded the following prizes:

- 5 Deluxe car washes compliments of Final Details
- 4 Golf N' Stuff tickets
- 40 percent off coupon to Patagonia
- 2 tickets to Santa Cruz Island
- \$100 gift card to Green Thumb Nursery



Top Left: Sandra Carlson won a Patagonia 40 percent discount coupon for using grey water for her garden. Top Right and Bottom: The Mendelsohn family had fun at Golf N' Stuff in Ventura after winning four tickets for their picture showcasing their drought-tolerant landscape.

## Fall Gardening Tips

Goodbye Summer and Hello Fall! Now is a great time of year to freshen up the garden and practice your water wise gardening techniques!

Here are 5 tips to keep your garden in good shape now that the weather is cooler.

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[www.cityofventura.net/waterwise](http://www.cityofventura.net/waterwise) for more details). Look for a new model with the ENERGY STAR label.

- **Camera:** You may be thinking, how can water be saved with a camera? In this issue, you'll read about the deadline for submitting a short film for the Water: Take 1 Short Film Festival. With a camera you can create a film that communicates the value of water and tells your story, and enter to win some amazing prizes (visit [www.watertake1.com](http://www.watertake1.com) for official festival details). Give a camera and in the card, write [www.watertake1.com](http://www.watertake1.com) to inspire the next winner.

- **Fix Leaks and running toilets:** Ventura Water encourages you to take the time to fix those nagging leaks and running toilets. At one drip per second, a faucet can leak 3,000 gallons in a year. A running toilet can waste up to 200 gallons of water each day.

Finally, you may choose to support Giving Tuesday, the Tuesday after Thanksgiving that encourages financial giving to charitable organizations. There are many organizations that collect donations to help the needy pay their utility bills or assist communities in developing countries that are trying to provide healthy water systems, like Waves for Water, a Southern California-based non-profit that works on the frontlines to provide clean water to communities in need around the world! ([www.wavesforwater.org](http://www.wavesforwater.org))

Whether or not you use Ventura Water's gift ideas, we hope you and your family have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Sincerely,

Shana Epstein,  
Ventura Water General  
Manager

- Improve your soil: Add compost, soil amendments or organic matter to the soil to improve its ability to retain water.
- Irrigate efficiently: Make sure sprinklers are not over-spraying and watering the pavement or driveway. If there is water run-off, adjust or replace sprinkler heads so they only water vegetation.
- Mulch: Cover soil around plants with three to four inches of mulch or bark chips to conserve moisture in the soil and keep weeds down.



- Add a smart controller: Allows for more accurate, customized irrigation by automatically adjusting the schedule and amount of water in response to changing weather conditions.
- Reimagine your landscape: Turf grass is one of the most water intensive plant types in your landscape. Its high-water uses and frequent maintenance make turf a time-consuming and expensive landscape option. Get creative and replace it with an Ocean Friendly garden and drought resistant plants. Incorporate a rain harvesting design to capture the rain when it comes! Now is a great time of year to reimagine your yard for next spring!

A Ventura resident shares his personal experience as a participant of the Water Wi\$e Incentive program and also how he fights drought fatigue by utilizing Ventura Water's residential recycled mobile reuse program. Click [here](#) to see the video.

Click [here](#) to view a slideshow from Sunset Magazine of 24 gorgeous and inspiring yards that have NO lawn at all.

Visit [www.venturacountygardening.com](http://www.venturacountygardening.com) to see more examples of beautiful grass-free yards, check out drought-tolerant plant lists and learn more about creating your water wise garden in Ventura.

Visit [www.removeyourturf.com](http://www.removeyourturf.com) or click [here](#) for information about Ventura Water's improved incentive program, Water Wi\$e 2.0.



## #Keep saving Ventura!

Congratulations again to our customers. New conservation figures show that you are continuing to exceed our goal of reducing water use by at least 20 percent each month.

In October, we did even better! Our overall water conservation level increased in October to approximately 24 percent! In September, our customers reduced water use by about 23 percent compared to almost 21 percent for August.

We remain in stage 3 water shortage with a continued call for only watering two days per week between the hours of 6 p.m. and 9 a.m. During the fall season cooler temperatures means less evaporation with moisture staying in the ground for longer, so please adjust your irrigation timers for cool weather watering. And remember to turn off your automated system when it's raining!

Want a professional opinion on how to be water efficient in and around your home? Ventura Water continues to offer free on-site water conservation surveys to commercial and residential water customers to equip them to be more water efficient. Please contact Customer Care at [myvtawater@cityofventura.net](mailto:myvtawater@cityofventura.net)

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In October 2016, Ventura Water experienced levels of Coliform Bacteria above the Drinking Water Standard. The incident has been resolved and there is absolutely no threat to Public Health! For more details and to view a map of the affected area, please visit [www.cityofventura.net/water](http://www.cityofventura.net/water).

## New Venue for the 5th Annual Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival Awards Ceremony

**Film Submission Deadline is Dec.16, 2016**

Filmmakers, act fast! Film submissions are being accepted through Dec. 16 for the 5th Annual Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival, which will celebrate winners next spring at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. The center is located at 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor.



Water: Take 1 aims to create a greater awareness of water as a valuable resource by inviting filmmakers locally and worldwide to submit short films of five minutes or less in any genre - drama, documentary, comedy, animation, sci-fi or experimental - that address the topic of water. Awards include the Audience Choice Award, voted on by the general public with the winner receiving an iPad; the award for Best Student Short Film, chosen by a jury of entertainment and water industry experts with a GoPro camera for a prize; the Grand Prize of \$1,500 presented by Ventura Water; and the Ventura Vision Award, which recognizes local films and offers a \$500 cash prize.

This year's new partner, the Palmdale Water District, is sponsoring the Palmdale Vision Award, recognizing films that best represent its mission and objectives, also for a \$500 cash prize.

If you're not sure what your short film should look like, get inspired by watching the Palmdale Water District's hilarious minute-long film, The Conservation Enforcer, which won the 2015 grand prize. View The Conservation Enforcer [here](#).

Visit [www.watertake1.com](http://www.watertake1.com). Click [here](#) for information about and directions to the awards ceremony venue at Ventura Harbor.

or call (805) 667-6500 to schedule a water conservation survey.

Don't forget to use the Water Calculator tool to help schedule your irrigation timers more efficiently for the fall season at [www.venturacountygardening.com/calc/](http://www.venturacountygardening.com/calc/). Learn more by clicking [here](#).

[www.saveourh2o.org](http://www.saveourh2o.org)



[www.epa.gov/watersense/](http://www.epa.gov/watersense/)



[www.home-water-works.org/calculator](http://www.home-water-works.org/calculator)



[www.saveourh2o.org/sprinklers101](http://www.saveourh2o.org/sprinklers101)





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