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Central Okanagan posted June 14, 2017 by Liz Brown

VIDEO: Mayors kick off Make Water Work campaign

On Wednesday, the Okanagan Basin Water Board (OBWB) kicked off its 'Make Water Work' campaign.

While issues of flooding are still a concern in the Okanagan, the OBWB decided to kick off the campaign on Wednesday, as lake levels have started dropping over the last few days.

Okanagan mayors came together to show their support for the campaign and encourage their residents to take on the water conservation campaign, 'Make Water Work.'



Photo Credit: KelownaNow

Mayors and City representatives gather to kick off the Make Water Work campaign.

The media event was held at the UnH2O Demonstration Garden in Kelowna, outside the H2O Adventure and Fitness Centre.

The demonstration garden features plants that require little watering and grow well in the Okanagan.

KelownaNow attended the event to hear what the mayors had to say.



"Even with this year's historic flooding, communities throughout the Okanagan have watering restrictions now in place, albeit for different reasons than we've seen in recent years," stated Tracy Gray, OBWB Chair and representative for the City of Kelowna.



Photo Credit: KelownaNow

"Just as too little precipitation can cause problems, so can too much. Too much water, as we're seeing now, can overwhelm water treatment plants. By conserving, we can help alleviate the pressure on our infrastructure.

"But also, as the summer goes on, and as the temperatures go up and people want to irrigate, we can have issues meeting peak daily demand for water," Gray added.

"By following the watering restrictions in your community, you are helping ensure there is enough for everyone – for residents and for farmers."



Photo Credit: KelownaNow

It's now the seventh year of the campaign, aimed at tackling the second highest use of all Okanagan water - residential outdoor use.

"We have been promoting our '[Slow it. Spread it. Sink it! – Okanagan Homeowners Guide](#)' as part of Make Water Work since 2012," stated Corinne Jackson, communications director for the OBWB.

"This guide, along with the rest of the Make Water Work program, is intended to Okanagan. We hope to help people create resilient landscapes that can handle wet and dry years, and ensure a sustainable water supply for our valley."





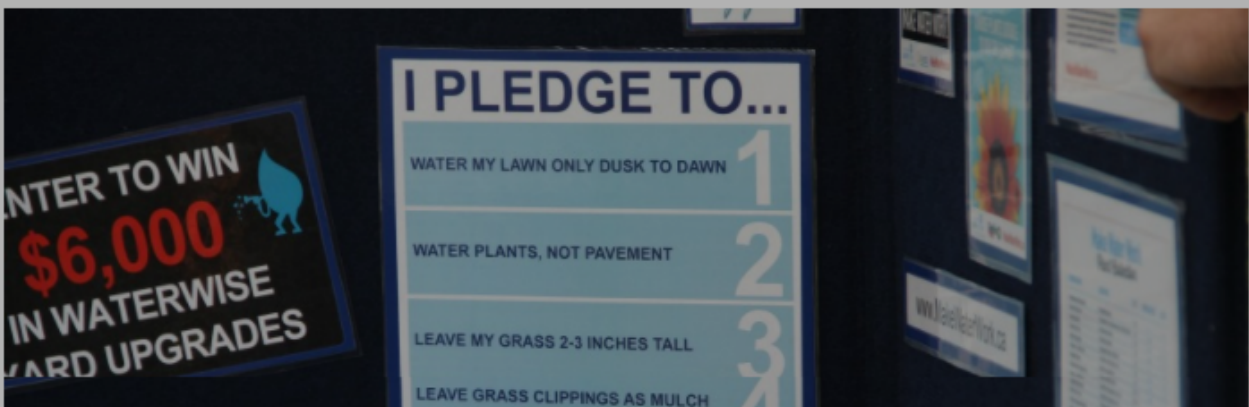
Photo Credit: KelownaNow
Corrine Jackson.

The Make Water Work campaign started in 2012 and has been running every spring since then. The goal is to get residents to use less water for their lawns and gardens, and consider planting shrubs, trees and other plants in their gardens that require less water.

Mayors were challenging other mayors to be the 2017 winner of water conservation.

Residents were also encouraged to conserve their water usage and take the [Make Water Work](#) challenge.

Those who take on the challenge, are entered to win a \$6,000 WaterWise yard upgrade.



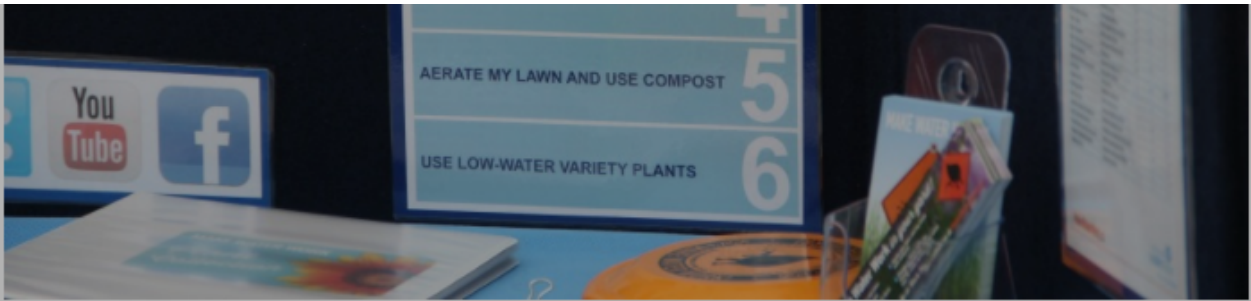


Photo Credit: KelownaNow

Past winners for water conservation over the last three years include the following:

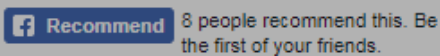
The Town of Oliver (2014), the City of Armstrong (2015) and the District of Peachland (2016).

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