



Water Conservation Projects Within the CFWI Receive Cost-Share Funding

The Central Florida Water Initiative (CFWI) Steering Committee recently approved \$287,500 of funding support to five projects through a CFWI Water Conservation Cost-Share Program.

These projects, which have total costs over \$612,000, are estimated to save nearly 50 million gallons a year (mgy) and are scheduled to be completed by November 2022. The funding is part of the \$40 million in statewide funding approved by Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature in 2020 for water supply and water conservation projects as part of Florida's efforts to identify and implement cost-effective strategies to protect the state's water resources while meeting Florida's water needs.

The CFWI Steering Committee consists of the leadership of the Southwest Florida, St. Johns River, and South Florida water management districts, Central Florida water supply utilities, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS). Partnership agreements with the project sponsors are expected to be completed by July 2020.

The projects include:

- Orlando Utility Commission's rebate program for homeowners to purchase and install high efficiency toilets in at least 376 homes and irrigation controllers that use weather data to reduce watering consumption to at least 200 homes, for an estimated total savings of 8.60 mgy.
- Toho Water Authority's program will offer weather-based irrigation controllers with smart technology and efficient pressure regulated heads/bodies to at least 100 homes, for an estimated total savings of 16.43 mgy.
- Orange County Utility's program will provide hardware to homebuilders to upgrade irrigation systems to a Wi-Fi enabled ET smart timer, rain sensors, and high efficiency spray nozzles to at least 100 new construction homes, for an estimated total savings of 3.96 mgy.
- The Polk Regional Water Cooperative's rebate program is for homeowners to purchase and install high efficiency toilets in at least 100 homes and smart irrigation controllers for at least 15 homes, for an estimated total savings of 8.5 mgy.
- The Ray Bob Grove Inc.'s project in Polk County will upgrade the irrigation distribution system as well as controls and risers to improve irrigation efficiency for an estimated total savings of 9.58 mgy.