SAVING WATER IS GOOD FOR THE EARTH, YOUR FAMILY, AND YOUR COMMUNITY

When you use water wisely, you help the environment. You save water for fish and animals. You help preserve drinking water supplies and you ease the burden on the wastewater treatment plant—the less water you send down the drain, the less work the plant has to do to make water clean again.

When you use water wisely, you save energy. You save the energy that the village uses to treat and move water, and the energy your family uses to heat your water.

When you use water wisely, you save money. If you use less water, your monthly bill be lower, you'll have more money left to spend on other items.

- Monitor your water bill for unusually high use. Your bill and water meter are tools that can help you discover leaks. Be sure the Clerk's office has contact information for you so that if high usage is detected, you can be notified in a timely fashion.

- Verify your home is leak-free. Many homes have hidden water leaks. Read your water meter before and after a two-hour period when no water is being used. If the meter does not read exactly the same, there is a leak.

- Know where your master water shut-off valve is located. This could save water and prevent damage to your home.

- Repair dripping faucets by replacing washers. If your faucet is dripping at the rate of one drop per minute (very slow), there are 1440 minutes in a day. A common drip is one drop per second! This will dramatically add to the cost of your water and sewer utilities.

- Check for toilet tank leaks by adding food coloring to the tank. If the toilet is leaking, color will appear in the bowl within 30 minutes. (Flush as soon as test is done, since food coloring may stain tank.) Check the toilet for worn out, corroded or bent parts. Most replacement parts are inexpensive, readily available and easily installed.

- If your toilet was installed before 1992, reduce the amount of water used for each flush by inserting a displacement device in the tank.

- Turning off the water while brushing your teeth could save 100 gallons a month per person.

- Turning off the water while you shave can save you up to 300 gallons a month.

- Insulate hot water pipes for more immediate hot water at the faucet and for energy savings.

- When running a bath, plug the tub before turning the water on, and then adjust the temperature as the tub fills up.

- Some refrigerators, air conditioners and ice-makers are cooled with wasted flows of water. Consider upgrading with air-cooled appliances for significant water savings.

- Shorten your showers by a minute or two and you'll save up to 700 gallons per month.

- Use a water-efficient showerhead. They're inexpensive, easy to install, and can save you between 500 to 800 gallons a month.

- Washing dark clothes in cold water saves both on water and energy while it helps your clothes to keep their colors. Wash only full loads of laundry; you can save 15 to 50 gallons per load.

- Keep a bottle of drinking water in the refrigerator. This beats the wasteful habit of running tap water to cool it for drinking. This action could save 200 to 300 gallons a month.

Summer is coming. With our children out of school and all of the many summer activities that boost our water usage, the average bill is sure to increase during the summer months. Let's teach our children what they can do to help their families save not only water but money. Check out: www.epa.gov/watersense/kids.

Talk to your family and friends about saving water. If everyone does a little, we all benefit a lot.