



Quarterly E-News

Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership Newsletter Fall | 2025

Marin Water program offers customer a solution to two problems at once:

When he first noticed water pooling around the downspouts at his Lucas Valley home, Marin Water customer Michael P. shuffled through various plans to address the situation.

He tried downspout extenders, and even contemplated an expensive, contractor-installed French drain system. But when he reviewed Marin Water's DIY Rain Barrel Giveaway program, Michael, always water efficiency minded, saw a solution to two problems.



The free barrels are the result of a collaboration between Marin Water and San Rafael-based EO Products. These non-food-grade barrels can be easily converted into water storage barrels for use in residential and commercial rainwater catchment systems, enabling Marin Water customers to supplement their outdoor watering needs. Since the program launched in May 2024, more than 750 barrels have been given out to Marin Water customers interested in capturing rainfall for later use. Read Michael's full story at marinwater.org/CustomerStory.

Looking to build your own system like Michael? With the DIY Rain Barrel Giveaway program, and a few needed supplies, you can create your own rain catchment system at a reduced cost. Learn more here: marinwater.org/DIYRainBarrelGiveaway

You can also purchase your own rainwater-harvesting device and apply for a rebate through:

- [Marin Water](https://marinwater.org)

- [North Marin Water District](#)
- [Santa Rosa Water](#)
- [City of Healdsburg](#)

[Click here to enter Marin Water's DIY Rain Barrel Giveaway!](#)

It's Time to Dial Back Your Irrigation

As we head into fall and the weather cools off, your plants need less water. Don't forget to dial back your irrigation controllers this fall!

Check out our [Irrigation Scheduling Tool](#) for irrigation scheduling recommendations based on current weather in your area.



Tired of adjusting your watering schedule every time the seasons change? Try using a Smart Irrigation Controller!

Smart Irrigation Controllers access current weather conditions in an area using either a soil moisture probe or an internet connection to local weather stations. Based upon this information, the controllers automatically adjust watering schedules for you, making them very water efficient. Make sure you get a WaterSense certified model for guaranteed efficiency!

The following water providers have Smart Irrigation Controller rebates:

- [City of Healdsburg](#)
- [Town of Windsor](#)
- [City of Santa Rosa](#)
- [North Marin Water District](#)
- [Marin Water District](#)

[Click here for more information on Smart Irrigation Controllers](#)

Eco-Friendly Garden Tour - Call for Gardens:

Want to share your eco-friendly gardening knowledge? If you or someone you know has a landscape you'd like to showcase on the Eco-Friendly Garden Tour in May 2026, now is the time to reach out!

Join the tour as a host site and let others walk the grounds of your low-water-use garden, pollinator-friendly yard, or native plant-filled oasis. Share your knowledge, get to know like-minded



individuals, and inspire others to adopt water-wise landscaping practices.

Contact savewater@scwa.ca.gov if interested.

[Click here for more information about the tour](#)

Look for Water Smart Plants at your local nursery:

Looking to save money by investing in low-water use plants for your yard? Or, want to choose plants that help your local ecosystem thrive? Native and low-water use plants not only grow more successfully, but will also be less prone to insects and diseases.

Look for The Water Smart Plant Label in nurseries across Sonoma and Marin counties. Participating nurseries identify low-water use plants with recognizable Water Smart Plant Labels so you can easily spot plants that thrive in our climate.



Look for Water Smart Plants which benefit both you and our local ecosystems!

Nurseries that offer Water Smart Plant Label

From trash to treasure - Santa Rosa's Reuse Bazaar:

Do you have a large item you need to part ways with? Or maybe some loved objects that need a new home? Join Clean Santa Rosa for their Reuse Bazaar! Bring your items or just "shop" (for free) what others bring. Once the event concludes, as many items as possible will be donated to local thrift stores to keep materials out of the landfill.

8 am – 11 am: Drop off reusable items
12 pm – 3 pm: “Shop” for free

This event is for Sonoma County residents only. ID’s will be checked.



Are you looking to part ways with a loved item, or in need of something for your home? **Come to the Reuse Bazaar!**

Bring your items, or just shop (for free) from what others bring, to the **Grace Pavilion at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds** (1350 Bennett Valley Rd., Santa Rosa). Once the event concludes, leftover items in good condition will be donated to local thrift stores and non-profit organizations.

This event is open to all residents in Sonoma County. Each resident can bring one vehicle full of items, with a maximum of three cubic yards of items per vehicle.

 Drop-off used items

 Shop **FREE** used items

 Learn about repair

DROP-OFF	8am - 11am
SHOP	12pm - 3pm

ACCEPTED

- Furniture
- Household decor
- Mattresses
- Small working appliances (i.e. toaster oven)
- Sports equipment
- Tires (9 per vehicle)
- Unbagged clothing and shoes
- Working electronics

NOT ACCEPTED

- Bagged items
- Concrete/asphalt
- Dirt/rocks
- Green waste
- Hazardous waste (i.e. batteries, chemicals)
- Items with internal combustion engine
- Large appliances
- Liquids or Toiletries
- Lumber
- Treated wood

FOR MORE INFORMATION: SRCity.org/ZeroWaste RSMWasteZero@Recology.com



Event from 8am-3pm on Saturday, September 27th at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds

[Click here to learn more](#)

Marin Green@Home Tour featuring Marin Water:



This exciting event will spotlight a variety of homes that have embraced electrification and sustainable practices, offering attendees a firsthand look at the benefits of replacing gas-powered appliances with cleaner, more efficient electric alternatives.

Gain valuable insights from tour hosts on appliance selection, contractor decisions, installation processes, tax credits and incentives, making your transition to electric living informed and cost-effective.

Attendees will have the chance to see firsthand a wide variety of electric appliances and environmentally-conscious home upgrades including energy-efficient heat pumps for heating and cooling, heat pump water heaters, induction cooktops, rainwater catchments, compost bins, electric vehicles (EVs), solar panels, battery storage systems, and more. Attendees will also be able to engage with tour hosts to learn about their choices, including financial considerations, rebate programs, contractors, and appliance models.

This event will be held from 11am-3pm on Saturday, September 27th

[Click here to learn more and to register](#)

Join the City of Petaluma for their Sip n' Save event at Crooked Goat Brewery:

Come on down to Crooked Goat for a FREE community, conservation and conversation-filled gathering focused on saving water (and money)!

Join Daily Acts and the City of Petaluma to cover all things residential water conservation. You'll walk away knowing how to:

- Tap into free local programs and resources
- Reduce your water bill and spot hidden leaks
- Transform lawns with free sheet mulching support
- Explore greywater and rainwater solutions
- And much more!

Bring your questions, your friends, and your love for our community. This is your chance to learn, connect, and take the next step toward a water-wise home.



This event will be held from 6:00-7:30pm on Thursday, October 2nd

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) Course in Santa Rosa:



The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership is proud to sponsor a free QWEL course taught at Sonoma Water in Santa Rosa! Take your landscaping skills to the next level and obtain your Qualified Water Efficient Landscaper (QWEL) certification through this in-person course taught in English.

Class schedule:

- Wednesday, October 15 - 7:30am-2:00pm
- Wednesday, October 22 - 7:30am-2:00pm
- Wednesday, October 29 - 7:30am-2:00pm
- **Exam on Wednesday, November 5 - 7:30am-11:00am**

Classes will include a 30 minute lunch break.

Classes on Wednesdays from October 15th - November 5th at Sonoma Water

[Click here for more information or to register](#)

Get something fixed at the Rohnert Park Reuse and Repair Fair!

Do you have a lamp, small appliance, textile, or bike in need of repair? Join Reuse Alliance, Zero Waste Sonoma, and the Sonoma County Libraries at the Repair Fair to get it fixed!

Volunteers and specialized repair professionals will be on-hand to repair your items. Stay with your item while it's being fixed, so you can learn tips for future maintenance, how to shop for repairable goods, and even how to repair things yourself! The event will also include a clothing swap.



The Sonoma-Marin Saving Water Partnership will have our own booth at the event. Make sure to drop by to learn how you can save water in your home!

Event from 10am-1pm on Saturday, October 18th at the Rohnert Park-Cotati Regional Library

[Learn more and register your items here](#)



California American Water - Larkfield · City of Cloverdale · City of Cotati · City of Healdsburg
Marin Water · North Marin Water District · City of Petaluma · City of Rohnert Park · City of Santa Rosa
City of Sonoma · Sonoma Water · Valley of the Moon Water District · Town of Windsor

STAY CONNECTED



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