Efficient use of water, through behavioral, operational, or equipment changes, if practiced broadly, can help mitigate the effects of drought.\textsuperscript{10,11}

**Indoor Water Conservation Tips**

- Do not let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths. Turn off the water while soaping or shampooing.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of running the faucet until the water’s cold.
- Do not use water to defrost frozen foods; thaw in the refrigerator overnight.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading into the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or load size.
- Repair all leaks. To detect leaks in the toilet, add food coloring to the tank water. If the colored water appears in the bowl, the toilet is leaking.

**Outdoor Water Conservation Tips**

- Detect and repair all leaks in irrigation system.
- Water the lawn or garden during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best). Do not water on windy days.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only – not the street or sidewalk.
- Use a shut-off nozzle on your hose, so that water flows only as needed. When finished, turn it off at the faucet to avoid hose connection leaks.
- Raise the lawn mower blade to at least three inches, or to its highest level. A higher cut encourages grass roots to grow deeper, shades the roots and holds soil moisture.
- Use mulch around shrubs and garden plants to reduce evaporation from the soil surface and to cut down on weed growth.