

Community Focus Statement A: Preserve the desert ecosystem, its natural beauty, and the community's harmonious relationship with the environment.

Action Statement A.2: Promote water conservation as an essential part of living in the desert.

A₂

Benchmark: Local residents collaborate with the Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) to regularly organize and maintain a variety of water conservation programs based on current issues and regulations related to drought and state and local-mandated water use restrictions, indoor and outdoor water conservation, seasonal water use, water-wise rebates, and water-smart landscaping. The committee continues to work with local, regional, and state agencies to obtain feedback on the status of drought and water restrictions and to promote water conservation programs to the community.

Champion: Volunteer group or person or can be identified by the community

Estimated Cost: \$250–\$1,000



The Coachella Valley Water District offers tours, seminars, workshops, educational publications, and brochures that address a wide range of topics from regional and statewide issues, water quality, water conservation, and water management. For more information, visit: <http://www.cvwd.org/148/Education>

Water conservation is critically important in desert communities like Joshua Tree where the climate brings high temperatures and little rainfall. Desert communities face unique challenges unlike other municipalities as the environment reflects the heavy burden imposed by the overuse of ground and surface waters. Water education programs can promote water conservation and support community awareness about the efficient use of water and the actions everyone can take to do their part to conserve.

Water conservation programs are often publicized by the local water service providers and partner agencies who distribute informational pamphlets, newsletters, and bill inserts to property owners and rental property management companies. Materials would inform property owners and renters about water conservation, water management, and drought concerns. General information, issues, regulations, and upcoming events related to drought and state and locally mandated water-use restrictions, indoor and outdoor water conservation, seasonal water use, water-wise rebates, water-smart landscaping, and simple ways to reduce

water use in Joshua Tree would be displayed in these informational materials. This information would encourage water users to reduce their water consumption by checking all plumbing for leaks, keeping showers short in duration, turning off water while not in use; washing only full loads of clothes/dishes in the washer/dishwasher, replacing older appliances and fixtures with new, more efficient models, landscaping in response to seasonal changes, and participating in water-wise rebates.

Currently the Joshua Basin Water District (JBWD) offers information on a variety of programs focused on the efficient use of water and reducing water waste. These include a new toilet rebate program to replace water-wasting

toilets with new efficient low-flush versions, cash for grass rebates to replace grass with turf, and rebates for water-efficient fixtures. The JBWD also offers an irrigation guide and designs for replacing grass and non-native plant species with Morongo Basin natives and desert-friendly plants that can survive with little or no water. The JBWD established a Citizens Advisory Committee that has been instrumental in advising on water conservation programs and water education programs. The JBWD holds a Water Education Day Event, which includes exhibits on learning about water conservation, groundwater pollution, rainwater harvesting, drought, emergency water, etc., and hosts general information booths during farmers markets throughout the year. Additionally, the JBWD partners with the Morongo Basin Conservation Association for seasonal workshops related to water-wise gardening and children’s educational workshops on water conservation.

Action:	Action Leader:	Timeline:	Resources:
1. Hold a meeting to create a committee	Champion	Month 1	Joshua Basin Water District, Water Conservation
2. Focus JBWD CAC members on efforts concerning water conservation programs that affect the community.	Joshua Basin Water District Citizens Advisory Committee	Month 2	http://www.jbwd.com/using-water-wisely/
3. Select a member to serve as water conservation program lead to provide leadership to the committee and as contact person for related topics and issues.	Joshua Basin Water District Citizens Advisory Committee	Month 2	Joshua Basin Water District, Board and Committee Meetings http://www.jbwd.com/about-us/board-of-directors/board-meetings/
4. Develop a list of community issues and regulations that address drought and water use restrictions.	Joshua Basin Water District Citizens Advisory Committee	Month 3	State of California Department of Water Resources Save Our Water http://saveourwater.com/
5. Develop key partnerships with local, regional, and state agencies for knowledge on legislative and community information.	Joshua Basin Water District Citizens Advisory Committee, with support and knowledge from State Water Board	Months 3 – 5	California Drought http://drought.ca.gov/ San Bernardino County Department of Public Works http://cms.sbcounty.gov/dpw/Home.aspx
6. Continue partnerships and relationships with community members to promote knowledge and awareness of water conservation.	Joshua Basin Water District Citizens Advisory Committee, with support from State Water Board and the community	On-going	Joshua Basin Water District http://www.jbwd.com/