

Do you have water or recycling questions? Come visit Belmont's Water Operations Manager, Mark Mancuso, and Recycling Coordinator, Mary Beth Calnan, at Meet Belmont on Tuesday, August 26th from 6:00pm-8:30pm. Literature on indoor/outdoor water conservation, recycling, and composting as well as a limited number of "Low Flow Shower Heads and Kitchen and Bath Aerators" will also be available to residents at no cost.

Are you still busy gardening and taking care of your lawn? Did you know that approximately seven billion gallons of water per day are used for landscape irrigation in this country? Try following these tips to conserve water while beautifying your grounds.

- Don't overwater your lawn. Your lawn doesn't need watering if you step on your grass and it springs back.
- Best time for watering lawns is between 4:00am-6:00am. This prevents a high rate of evaporation, avoids sun burnt grass, and reduces mildew and fungal diseases.
- Aerate your lawn. This allows water to penetrate to the roots and prevents water runoff.
- Mulch around trees and shrubs. This prevents moisture loss, erosion, and inhibits weed growth.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn after mowing, which helps release nitrogen into the soil.
- Sprinkle compost as topsoil to deliver nutrients as an alternative to chemical fertilizers. These natural nutrients help grass and plants grow slowly and healthier so there is less need for water.
- Use native, low water plants that thrive in your region's climate.
- A hose without a nozzle uses 10 gallons or more per minute. Look for nozzles that increase the pressure of the water while decreasing water flow.
- Sprinkler system info: http://www.epa.gov/WaterSense/outdoor/watering_tips.html

While we are on the topic of water, single serve water bottles might be convenient, but only 20% end up being recycled. Instead they are tossed in the trash or end up littering our parks and roadways. Greenovate Boston posted the following information on bottled water.

Five not-so-fun facts about bottled water you ought to know

1. The bottled water industry started in Boston. In 1760 the first documented case of bottled mineral water was sold.
2. Plastic bottles create enough waste to fill up Fenway Park. Massachusetts sends 1.1 plastic single serve bottles to landfills every year.
3. It's speeding up climate change and polluting our Oceans. Every year, 10% of the 200 billion pounds of plastic produced ends up in our oceans.

4. Bottled water is held to LOWER standards than tap water. The EPA regulates tap water and the FDA regulates bottled water.
5. Bottled water drinkers are losing lots of money each year. Tap water cost less than 1 cent/gallon while bottled water can cost as much 8 dollars/gallon.

More in-depth information can be found at <http://greenovateboston.org/news/five-not-so-fun-facts-about-bottled-water-you-ought-to-know/>

If you have any questions or suggestions please contact Mary Beth Calnan at 617-993-2689 or mcalan@belmont-ma.gov. and don't forget to stop by the DPW table at Meet Belmont.