The typical Twin Cities community uses nearly 3 times more water in the average summer month than in the average winter month. The majority of this water is used on the landscape – lawns and gardens. In the 1990s less water was used on the landscape, and at that time the typical Twin Cities community used about 2 times more water in the average summer month than in the average winter month.
How to implement water conservation in your community.
Adapted from Georgia Environmental Protection Division:

**Step 1 – Plan and Adopt a Community-Based Policy**
- Consult with other utilities to assess successes in similar communities.
- Set overall program goals. Define the metrics that will measure success.
- Review alternative rate structure. Revise rate structure before establishing water conservation requirements of customers.
- Adopt water conservation ordinances.

**Step 2 – Conduct (and regularly update) a Water Audit. Implement Recommendations.**
- Search for and repair leaks at the water treatment plant and in the distribution system.
- Identify and replace inefficient and outdated equipment for long term savings.
- Identify other revenue losses such as unaccounted water or incorrect meters.

**Step 3 – Train Managers and Staff.**
- Include information on why water conservation is important.
- Solicit ideas of how to conserve water on-the-job and in the plant.

**Step 4 – Develop and Implement Water Conservation Requirements, Incentives, and Public Education.**
- Offer rebates for water efficient appliances, fixtures, or landscapes. (commercial or residential) to be reimbursed by credit to future water bill.
- Encourage or require audits of residential and commercial lawn irrigation systems to diagnose leaks, sprinkler head adjustments, and conservation equipment upgrades.
- Require water conservation appliances or fixtures in new construction or as part of sale of property.
- Require minimum depth of topsoil and/or soil amended with compost before seeding or sodding new lawns (already required by many watershed districts in the Twin Cities).
- Consider demonstration projects for the public to visit.
- See the Toolbox for more water conservation program ideas.

**Step 5 – Track Metrics and Adjust.**