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Summer 2021



### July is Smart Irrigation Month

July is the official start of the Smart Irrigation Month Celebration – a time to increase awareness of the value of water we use. In order to conserve as much of our precious water as possible, we must be vigilant especially when watering our lawns to make every drop count. One way to save water and money is by taking advantage of WASD's free evaluations of single-family homes and large property irrigation systems, which provide recommendations to improve your yard and reduce water use. Learn more about water conservation and incentives that help reduce water use and lower your water bill.

### The use of fertilizers now prohibited in Miami-Dade County during the rainy season

With Miami-Dade County now in the rainy season, the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorus is prohibited from May 15 through October 31. Applying fertilizer during the rainy season increases the chance that it will wash away into local bodies of water. Fertilizers contain nutrients that can be harmful to lakes, canals and especially Biscayne Bay. Excess nutrients from our urban watershed are affecting the health of Biscayne Bay, and has contributed to seagrass die-offs and algal blooms in the bay. The County's new fertilizer ordinance includes other regulations for the use of fertilizers, including a ban on fertilizer application near surface water bodies such as canals, wetlands, lakes or the Bay and guidelines for proper fertilizer use. Do your part to [help protect Biscayne Bay](#) and [follow the regulations](#) of the new fertilizer ordinance.

### It's that time of year again! Be prepared for Hurricane season

Hurricane season is here, and if you haven't already begun to do so, it's time to plan and prepare now! WASD works year-round to ensure they can provide reliable water and sewer service in the event of any emergency, weather-related or not. Be sure to review your family emergency plan and assemble a hurricane supply kit so you are well prepared if a storm should impact Miami-Dade County. Check out the [Hurricane Readiness Guide](#) and plan ahead of time.

### Go solar with your neighbors at a group rate

Imagine walking into a solar company's office with 100 neighbors and saying, "We all want to get solar. What kind of deal can you give us?" That's a solar co-op! After helping hundreds of local homeowners learn about or install solar, the Miami-Dade Solar Co-op is back to help you in 2021. If you've ever been curious about how solar works and if it would work for your home, this is the group for you. Organized by nonprofit Solar United Neighbors (SUN), the solar co-op will give you all the help you need to learn about and install solar panels with ease and confidence. You'll have the opportunity to go solar at a group rate, alongside your neighbors! And there's no pressure to go solar if it's not right for you. Remember, because it takes a lot of water to create energy, going solar helps conserve water too. Learn more and [join the co-op](#) for free today.

### Save your sewer lines and think before you flush

Help protect our sewer system and help prevent sewer pipe breaks and wastewater overflows by only flushing the 3 Ps: poop, pee and toilet paper. Disposing of wipes and other unflushable items down your toilet can clog the sewer lines and damage pumps and other equipment. Not only are these problems expensive to fix, but they can also cause sewage overflows into homes, businesses and local waterways. Think trash, not toilets! Find out more about [what not to flush](#).

### Did you know...

... That you need at least one gallon of water per person, per day, for three to seven days after a hurricane? Stocking an emergency water supply should be one of your top priorities so you will have enough water on hand for yourself and your family. Also, make sure to have a half gallon per pet, per day for three days. Invest in water storage containers that can be used year after year. It is recommended not to fill containers until your area is under a hurricane warning.

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