



## Water restrictions now mandatory

***If you use too much water, you could pay a \$200 fine***

By Andrew Mackie

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HICKORY - Water restrictions are now mandatory in Hickory and other cities along the Catawba River. Duke Energy declared the move from voluntary to mandatory conservation Monday afternoon as the region continues to suffer through an extreme drought. Hickory's mandatory water conservation calls for limited lawn watering and washing of buildings and sidewalks, along with the elimination of residential vehicle washing. Hickory manager Mick Berry said city staff will be monitoring citizens' water use and enforcing the conservation regulations. The goal is to reduce water use by 5 percent to 10 percent.

Hickory water users that receive water, directly or indirectly from Hickory, are also required to adhere to the mandatory restrictions. They include: Conover, Brookford, Claremont, Catawba, Maiden and portions of southeastern Catawba County, Alexander County, southern Caldwell County and eastern Burke County.

"City staff will be monitoring citizens' water use and enforcing the conservation regulations and we encourage people to inform their neighbors who may not be aware of the restrictions on watering yards, washing cars and other activities with water," Berry said.

Citizens are encouraged to follow the restrictions immediately. Water customers could be subject to a fine beginning Sept. 4. Fines will be added to monthly utility bills. The first offense ranges from a fine of \$100 to \$200. The second offense calls for a \$200 to \$400 fine. In all, 24 communities along the Catawba River will implement mandatory conservation policies.

Duke Energy said the move is based on scientific data of water storage, rainfall and information from the United States Drought Monitor.

For more information about Hickory's mandatory water restrictions, call 323-7427.

### DETAILS:

#### **Mandatory requirements for Stage 2 LIP:**

- Limit outside water use to no more than two days per week. No more than one inch per week of outside watering is allowed.
- Southeast Hickory, southwest Hickory, Brookford, Conover, Claremont, Catawba, Maiden, Mountain View, Sherrills Ford, Bandys and Banoak may do outside watering on Tuesday and Saturday between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Northeast Hickory, northwest Hickory, and portions of Alexander County (Bethlehem, N.C. 16 and Sugarloaf), southern Caldwell County and eastern Burke County may do outside watering on Thursday and Sunday between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.
- Limit outside water use to only those items required for safety or regulatory compliance. No washing of buildings, sidewalks, parking lots or public streets.
- Landscaping should receive minimal watering with use of hand-held cans or manned spring-loaded nozzles.
- Eliminate residential vehicle washing; wash cars minimally at commercial car washes that use recycled water.

#### **Tips to help reduce water consumption indoors:**

- Turn off water while brushing your teeth.
- Repair leaking faucets and/or toilets.
- Only run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads.
- Do not run water while shaving or washing face.
- Do not throw trash in the toilet.
- Do not use running water to thaw meat or foods.
- Limit showers and baths to the minimum amount of water.
- Install water-saver aerators (shower heads/faucets) if fixtures are not equipped with them.

- Source: City of Hickory

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