



**TO: THE NEWS
EDITOR**

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**NWC ENCOURAGES CONTINUED CONSERVATION
....Longest Dry Period Begins**

The National Water Commission is advising customers in the Corporate Area that despite the significant improvement in the water levels at the two storage facilities customers are being encouraged to continue to practice good conservation as we prepare for the longest dry period, which runs between December and April.

While the water levels at the Hermitage Dam and the Mona Reservoir are currently at 100%, inflows into the two facilities have begun to decline steadily, necessitating the introduction of night time restrictions. As a result of the adjustments, some customers may not experience any disruption at all while others will experience low water pressure or have no water between the hours of **11:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.**

According to information from the Meteorological Service of Jamaica, El Nino which is the driving force for the drought which Jamaica has been experiencing this year is still expected to continue into the dry season (Dec 2015 - Mar 2016). However, for the early rainfall season (April/May) conditions should improve over most parishes once the El Nino weakens, as is being predicted by the models.

It is therefore still critical that persons expect that there will still be some disruptions and all efforts be continued to improve personal, household and community capabilities to treat with continuing water and climate related challenges. The NWC commits and is advanced with upgrading plans to improve water supply in its effort to mitigate future drought conditions.

The following are some basic tips that will assist in conservation efforts:

IN THE BATHROOM

- Check your toilet for leaks.
- A typical shower uses 5-10 gallons of water per minute and most of the water is not really utilized. Limit the time the shower is on to the time it takes to wet your body and to wash off the lather.
- Use just a glassful of water to brush your teeth, not a continuously running pipe.
- Just a little in the basin is enough to clean your razor.

IN THE KITCHEN

- A dripping faucet can waste up to 7,600 litres (2,000 gallons) of water per year.
- Wipe away gravy, grease and food scraps from plates and bowls before washing.
- If you wash dishes by hand, don't leave the water running for rinsing. If you have two sinks, fill one with soapy water and one with rinse water. If you have only one sink, gather washed dishes in a dish rack and rinse them with a pan-full of water. Similarly, don't let the faucet run while you clean vegetables. Just rinse them in a sink or a pan of clean water.

OUTDOORS

- Instead of washing driveways, sidewalks, gutters and steps, use a hard broom to sweep these areas.
- Don't use fresh water for your plants and garden. Save the rinse water from your kitchen or laundry, and do your watering in the early morning – this prevents fungus growth, which occurs when you water at dusk.
- Don't let your children play with taps, hoses and sprinklers. Their innocent frolic on a hot day could waste hundreds of gallons of precious water.
- Wash your car with a bucket of water and a rag, not a running hose.

As we collaborate in the conservation effort, the NWC will continue to play its part in ensuring that leaks are dealt with in a speedy manner.

The National Water Commission asks for the continued cooperation and understanding of all its valued customers.