Water-saving solutions for Washington residents:

1. Select Plants that Thrive – Washington enjoys a wide selection of drought tolerant plants. While many native plants fit this category, it is important to understand they are not necessarily the only answer. Please consult your local independent nursery or landscape professional for advice on proper plant selection for regionally adapted plants and trees.

2. Prepare Your Site & Apply Mulch – A well prepared site will support a healthy and sustainable landscape. Consider using compost and applying a top dressing of mulch as it reduces water needs, is attractive and over time will improve soil structure. Additional resources can be found at your local WSU extension center or by contacting a Certified Professional Horticulturist or ecoPRO Certified Sustainable Landscape Professional.

3. Water & Irrigate Efficiently – Use only as much water as needed for plants and be sure to group plants together with similar watering needs. Ensure that your irrigation management system features the latest technology, including smart controllers, sensor times, and incorporates drip irrigation. A properly designed, installed and maintained irrigation system is a highly effective means of sustaining landscapes and lawns. It is a good investment to consult a landscape professional regarding an audit and update to your irrigation system.

4. Consider Permeable Hardscape – Homeowners installing hard surfaces in their landscapes may want to consider pavers or other porous materials rather than concrete. Pavers and porous surfaces allow penetration of rainfall into the ground.

Consult your local independent nursery or landscape professional, Certified Professional Horticulturist, or ecoPRO Certified Sustainable Landscape Professional. Nursery and landscape professionals are equipped with knowledge and expertise to assist homeowners to protect plants and trees and help with sustainable landscape practices. To locate a professional to help, please visit WSNLA.ORG.

**Greener is Cleaner**
One tree can remove 26 pounds of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere annually, equaling 11,000 miles of car emissions. *Virginia Cooperative Extension.*

When you plant a hydrangea or maple, you get plenty more than just pretty flowers and leaves. While standing there looking gorgeous, flowers, trees and grasses are also busy doing janitorial service on the environment. In urban and suburban settings, vegetation helps reduce stormwater runoff, decreases pollutants and suspended solids in surface water runoff, and reduces sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, carbon monoxide and particulate matter from the air.

**Growth Investments**
Adding a beautiful landscape to a home can increase its value by up to 15% and can accelerate its sale by five to six weeks. *American Nursery & Landscape Association.*

A great way to put more green in your pocket is to start putting more of it in the ground. A beautiful landscape increases the value of any home or property. And it sure beats painting. Ever compare the price of houses on a tree-lined street versus comparable places on a barren boulevard? The difference will make anyone an instant plant lover.

**Shady Deal**
Just three properly placed trees can save an average household between $100 and $250 in annual heating and cooling costs. *U.S. Department of Energy*

Planting greenery and enjoying its beauty have been proven to lower your blood pressure and heart rate. What's more, they can substantially lower your home's temperature and energy bill. By carefully positioning trees and shrubs to shelter your house from the sun and wind, you can reduce your heating and cooling energy consumption by as much as 25%, which should lower your blood pressure even more!

**Local Color**
The better the landscaping in common areas of a neighborhood, the more those spaces are used by residents, hence the more opportunities there are for social interaction between neighbors. *University of Illinois*

One of the most important factors in neighborhood satisfaction is the abundance of trees and well-landscaped grounds.

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