

TONIGHT'S HOMEWORK

In the Fall 2007 issue we asked for your best ideas on conserving water in Nevada. Following are a couple of responses that offer good conservation tips and an idea on monitoring home usage. Take a look at the responses on this page.

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPING TIPS

Nick Brunson, '88 (business management), Reno

Residential landscaping consumes huge volumes of water, especially in keeping lawns green. My suggestion is for homeowners to take the initiative

of reconfiguring their landscaping to incorporate rock gardens, paver patios, wood or composite decking, and drought-tolerant plants to significantly reduce watering needs. Also, homeowners need to make sure their drip and sprinkler systems are providing the proper amount of water to reduce run-off and waste.

IN-HOME METERING SYSTEM

Lori Kajkowski '97 (art), Portland, Ore.

Conserving water is critical, but how does the average resident know how much is being used? I think an important piece of

the water conservation effort is a realistic picture of usage. Why hide a water meter outside under spider webs and bugs? The state and/or utility company should get on board with development of an in-home metering system. One could have a sensor in the appropriate place (i.e. at the outside meter) which transmits data to a small, indoor table-top unit. A resident could have a water consumption target which could then be monitored daily or even hourly. There would be no more looking at a water bill and wondering, "Where did it all go?!"

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