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Available for Interview

Faye Rutishauser

State Water Conservation Coordinator

**\$5,000 Water Conservation Grants to be Awarded
to Four "2016 H2Oath Thirst Games" Winners**

Salt Lake City (August 11, 2016) - The Utah Division of Water Resources is pleased with the hundreds of Utah Citizens who have taken H2Oath: Utah's Water-Wise Pledge. The division is now upping the stakes through the "H2Oath Thirst Games," A competition that will land four water-wise cities a \$5,000 water conservation grant. The H2Oath can be taken at water.utah.gov/H2Oath or at the mobile-friendly <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2Oath>.

The competition will run from August 15 through Sept. 15, 2016. The winners will be announced soon after. The H2Oath Thirst Games are simple.

- Cities have been categorized into four groups based on population, so smaller cities are not competing directly with metropolitan areas.
 - First Category – 100,000 or more
 - Second Category – 65,000 – 99,999
 - Third Category – 30,000 – 64,999
 - Fourth Category – 1 – 29,999
- The H2Oath has an option to select which city the pledge taker is from.
- The cities' with the largest percent of citizen H2Oath takers in each population category will be awarded a \$5,000 water conservation grant and win the H2Oath Thirst Games!

“We hope cities will reach out to their citizens via social media, city newsletters, websites, announcements in city council meeting and any other way they can think of. We also hope there is some friendly competition among cities, including a little trash talk,” Faye Rutishauser, DWRe’s new State Water Conservation Coordinator said.

A map showing which cities are in the lead will be updated weekly during the competition, and will be available at water.utah.gov/H2Oath. The division will also publish the updates via Facebook and Twitter.

(more)

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“One of the keys to water conservation progress in Utah is not a top down approach; instead it is bottom up. We feel retailers and cities will bring practical water conservation solutions and innovation that work for their communities. We want to empower them to do so,” Rutishauser said.

Background:

The Utah Division of Water Resources (DWRe) launched a water conservation campaign called “H2Oath: Utah’s Water-Wise Pledge” to encourage additional water conservation efforts by families, businesses, cities, government agencies and statewide organizations. It can be found at water.utah.gov/H2Oath or at the more mobile-friendly <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/H2Oath>.

The H2Oath is designed to commit individuals and groups to conserve more by following the division’s Weekly Lawn Watering Guide (found on slowtheflow.org, and posted weekly via the division's Facebook and Twitter accounts) throughout the irrigation season. It also encourages committing to several other water conservation actions. Governor Herbert showed his support, officially declaring May 10, 2016 "H2Oath: Utah's Water-Wise Pledge Day."

Hundreds of people and organizations have taken the H2Oath. The division will work throughout the summer to partner with organizations and individuals to conserve water through adherence to its commitments. The division encourages people to take the pledge, and show support by asking their family, friends, customers, employees and constituents to do the same.

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