



# Taking the H2Oath to Conserve Water Across Intermountain Facilities

- By summer 2021, 98% of Utah was in an extreme drought, 83% of Idaho was in a severe drought, and 95% of Nevada was in a severe drought; all Intermountain service areas
- Intermountain Healthcare accelerated in-the-works water conservation projects to help conserve water, reduce waste, and do our part to help the communities we serve
- Learn about sustainability at Intermountain by visiting: <https://intermountainhealthcare.org/about/transforming-healthcare/sustainability-environmental-health/>

## Conserving Water is Part of Being a Community Anchor

Since 2008, the Intermountain Central Laundry Facility has saved more than 130 million gallons of water by reducing water usage. The Central Laundry employs an efficient continuous batch washer or “tunnel” washing system that uses .56 gallons of water per pound of laundry, compared to the national benchmark of 1.0 gallon per pound. They even recycle rinse water into wash water, reducing water consumption by 40%. Clearly, sustainability is good for business and great for the environment.

## Joining With Business Leaders to Address Water Conservation

In the summer of 2021, Intermountain Healthcare took the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce’s H2Oath in a pledge to be water-wise and conserve water across the Intermountain system—From Boise, Idaho to Las Vegas, Nevada.

The H2Oath requires a commitment to reduce water usage through irrigation reduction, leak-detection monitoring, soil moisture monitoring, limitations in turf use, water metering, low-flow fixtures, and other measures to conserve water. It helps to reduce water usage now and in the future.

“Efficient water use is a pillar of Intermountain’s sustainability work,” says Glen Garrick, Director of Sustainability for Intermountain Healthcare.

“Many of our facilities managers have been quietly working on this issue for years and the drought has accelerated their turf replacement plans.”

## Rethinking Turf and Honoring Existing Ecosystems

Intermountain has completed or begun the process of reducing turf at eight different sites. In total, this will result in over a million square feet of turf being replaced with water use efficient strategies like xeriscaping, local scaping, or nature-based solutions.

"Environmental health is an essential element to the health and wellness of our communities. As a place of healing, we are proud to be a part of the H2Oath commitment and will continue to find ways to conserve this precious resource," says Mikelle Moore SVP and Chief Community Health Officer.

For the remainder of the turf around campuses and sites, Intermountain is encouraging the conversion of traditional rotor sprinklers to a more water use efficient in ground drip emitter that is designed for turf.

## Reducing Water Usage Guidelines to Conserve Water

Intermountain has also reinforced conservations so all healthcare sites reduce watering to only twice weekly in Northern Utah and Idaho, and three times weekly in Southern Utah and Nevada (south of I-70). This temporary adjustment may cause the turf to turn brown, but the roots will stay healthy to rebound in the spring.

"Regardless of the amount of rain or snow that falls, water conservation is our responsibility in taking care of our resources," says Garrick. "Taking care of these resources will be beneficial for the environment and save money for Intermountain and patient care."

## How You Can Help

Have an idea for Intermountain to reduce, reuse, recycle, or rethink water usage? Send us a message online at <https://intermountainhealthcare.org/about/transforming-healthcare/sustainability-environmental-health/sustainability-ideas/>

