



# Drought Planning and Response Guide



This guide is to help our community adapt to drought conditions, water quantity conditions and take action to minimize negative impacts.



## WHAT CAUSES DROUGHT CONDITIONS?

A drought can occur whenever there is insufficient rain or snowfall over an extended period, resulting in water shortage for communities and ecosystems.

## WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS OF DROUGHT?

Drought conditions can affect communities and individuals by reducing the amount of water available for households and businesses. Under extreme conditions, water systems could run out of potable water and be unable to meet fire suppression requirements. Drought can also affect water quality from surface sources and can reduce the safety of treated water.



### Fix leaky faucets and taps.

A dripping tap can waste up to 20 litres or more per day! Fix or report any water leaks noted in your home, and around your community.



### Create a low flow toilet.

You can achieve a smaller volume of water per flush by adding something to the tank reservoir to displace water. A water filled 1-litre plastic milk jug works well. Be sure to place them so that they do not interfere with the flushing mechanism.



### Take shorter showers.

Use a water-conserving showerhead (less than 9.5 litres per minute). Take quick showers rather than baths, which use 80 fewer litres of water on average. Showering just one minute quicker can save a household up to 10,000 litres of water a year! If you do prefer baths, you need a maximum of nine minutes to run enough water.



### Do not let water run continuously.

When shaving, brushing teeth, washing your face or hands, or washing the dishes. You can put the plug in and use the water that filled up in the sink.



We are planning.

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The Sunshine Coast Regional District (SCRD), through the Sunshine Coast Emergency Program (SCEP), is the lead agency for emergency management on the Sunshine Coast. The Town of Gibsons, District of Sechelt, and the Sechelt Nation Government District (SNGD) have joined the SCRD to be part of one integrated emergency program. Municipal and regional district staff along with volunteers, first responders, first nations and non government agencies plan, train and exercise together to be ready for the next large scale emergency or disaster.