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Locally informed Science for Students: TMWA Teams with DRI to Launch STEM Curriculum

TMWA has teamed up with Desert Research Institute (DRI) to offer STEM-based lessons that support local science education focusing on the Truckee River system. Starting this fall, middle and high school teachers can access these free educational resources through DRI's STEM Education Program. All lessons align with required standards.

Lessons provide Truckee River focused education in three primary areas: Watershed & Source Water, Water Quality and Water Resource Management. Students will learn the following concepts: source water quality protection, drinking water treatment processes, and how groundwater and surface water are managed to help meet peak use during summer.

The curriculum is funded through TMWA's conservation outreach program along with a workforce development grant managed by DRI. This rich mix of digital and physical learning materials will be available to teachers and home school instructors. DRI also offers professional development courses during which teachers can review this curriculum. Sessions are scheduled for September 29 and October 15 in the afternoons. These courses qualify for continuing education credits for Washoe County School District teachers.

While initial lessons roll out this fall, additional units will be developed through 2027. To learn more about the lessons, email stemeducation@dri.edu or call 775-673-7389.



Curriculum includes pathways to STEM careers within the water sector.

Far Out!

At Truckee Meadows Water Authority, we project drinking water supplies into the next

20, 60, even 80 years.



Smart About Water Quick Fact:

Did you know that every five years TMWA updates its Water Resource Plan (WRP)? This fall, the 2045 WRP plan will be released and provides projections for the community's drinking water needs.

Look to our October issue to learn more about the 2045 WRP release.

Community Growth and Water Service

Many customers wonder how new homes, apartments and business developments get new water service. Projects must first receive approval from the City of Reno, City of Sparks or Washoe County. Then, to receive water service from TMWA, water rights must be purchased, usually on the open market. Before construction begins, those rights are dedicated to TMWA. For every acre-foot of water needed for a new development, TMWA requires an additional 11 percent (or 0.11 acre-foot) be provided for drought storage.

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TMWA holds all dedicated water rights in perpetuity for every building receiving water in its service territory.

Where do water rights come from? There are no new water rights. The total amount of water rights on the Truckee River was set in 1944 by the Orr Ditch Decree and has remained unchanged. Most water rights used for development in the Truckee Meadows are converted from agricultural to municipal use.

Note: Growth Pays for Growth. TMWA's policy specifies a new project must pay for all added facilities, infrastructure and water rights before receiving water service. The TMWA Board of Directors instituted this policy shortly after TMWA was formed in 2001.

Standing Advisory Committee: You Have a Voice at TMWA

TMWA's Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) is your direct link to TMWA's staff and Board of Directors. The committee is composed of representatives from every customer class at TMWA – from homeowners to big businesses. They review rate proposals, budgets and other items related to your water service and report their findings and recommendations to the TMWA Board. The SAC meets quarterly. Applications to serve on the SAC are accepted on a rolling basis. If you are interested in becoming a SAC member, contact sfolsom@tmwa.com for more information. All customers are welcome to attend. Visit tmwa.com/meeting for meeting schedules and agendas.



Reminder: Dispose of Your Prescriptions Safely

Join Together Northern Nevada and partners will accept medications no questions asked and provide free biodegradable prescription drug deactivation kits at the next Prescription Drug Take Back Day, scheduled for October 25, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., at locations in Reno, Sparks, Spanish Springs and Cold Springs. Visit jtnn.org for additional information. Let's keep our kids, the river and our environment safe! For more information about future prescription-drug disposal efforts, visit jtnn.org.

Winterize Your Sprinkler System: Workshops Offered in October

TMWA offers workshops throughout the year designed to help you understand how water is managed in our region, and how you can use it more efficiently at home. The next set of free workshops addresses winterizing and safely shutting down your sprinklers. They are scheduled for Oct. 8 and 15 at 5:30- 6:30 p.m. Space is limited, so please RSVP at least two days in advance: email at rsvp@tmwa.com or call 775-834-8290.

Where to Call

- General Inquiries 775-834-8080
- Emergency Repair 775-834-8090
- Water Conservation 775-834-8005
- Water Quality 775-834-8118
- Water Rights 775-834-8029
- Ombudsman 775-848-0813



Truckee Meadows Water Authority is a community-owned water utility, overseen by elected officials and citizen appointees from Reno, Sparks and Washoe County.

TMWA employs a highly skilled team who ensure the treatment, delivery and availability of high-quality drinking water around the clock for more than 475,000 residents of the Truckee Meadows.

Events and Public Meetings

Workshop: Winterize Your Irrigation System
October 8, 5:30 p.m.

Meeting: Board of Directors Meeting
October 15, 10 a.m. – noon. Sparks City Council Chambers.

Workshop: Winterize Your Irrigation System
October 15, 5:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Holiday: Nevada Day
October 31, TMWA Offices Closed

Find details for all workshops and meetings at tmwa.com/meeting.

