

USU Extension Grant – Final Report

Project Leader: Candace Schaible
Title: Improving Iron County’s Landscape Water Check Program
Project Duration: June 1, 2016 – October 31, 2016
Total Requested: \$7,200

Project Summary

In this report we evaluated the impact of the Iron County Water Check program on high residential water users. The Water Check Program is a one on one irrigation consultation which involves a visual inspection of the landscape and irrigation system, data collection, and an in-depth sprinkler system evaluation through the process of a water audit. This existing program has been available to residential and commercial water users since 2010. In 2016, the program targeted to the top 10% of residential water users in Iron County, UT. Water billing data was collected for the twenty-one participants to determine water usage pre and post-program participation.

Project Results

Collaboration

Candace Schaible collaborated with Kelly Kopp and the Center for Water Efficient Landscaping (CWEL) to implement the use of USU’s Water Check application into the Iron County Water Check program. The use of the application streamlined the data collection process and automatically generated the homeowner’s report. It also reduced mathematical errors by eliminating the technician’s need to preform calculations. This automation reduced the average time to complete a water check by 20-30 minutes.

Impact

The water check program showed an overall water savings of 8% among the top 10% of high water users in the months following participation in the program. This equates to 166,113 gals of water saved due to participating in the water check program. When combining usage data for each participant for the months of August, September, and October, 57% (12 users) of participants showed detectable savings. The average savings of those twelve users for the three months following the water check was 26,527 gals/user. We will continue to monitor the water use of the participants following their participation in the 2016 program to determine whether the initial water savings has been sustained over time.

Outreach Efforts

A brief summary was presented at Extension Annual Conference in March of 2017. A more detailed presentation will be presented to USU Extension employees at Region Faculty meeting.

Extramural Funds

Based upon these reported impacts, the Central Iron County Water Conservancy District Board of Directors have agreed to fund the program in subsequent years.