



## What is Reclaimed Water?

Reclaimed water is wastewater that has been thoroughly treated to remove harmful



organisms and substances, such as bacteria, viruses and heavy metals, so it can be reused for beneficial purposes.

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/water\\_reuse/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/water_reuse/)

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A Fairfax County, Virginia Publication, August 2013



*Quality of Water = Quality of Life*

# WATER REUSE PROGRAM

*Fairfax County  
Wastewater  
Management*



To help protect the environment, Fairfax County created a program to reuse treated wastewater. This water can be safely used for everything from watering lawns to washing cars to running industrial plants. By reusing water, we conserve drinking water and reduce the amounts of nitrogen and phosphorus from entering our streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

### How is reclaimed water used now?

This water is being used at the plant that turns household trash into energy. This energy plant uses up to 1.3 million gallons per day. Reclaimed water also is being used to water the Laurel Hill Golf Course, as well as four athletic fields in Lorton.



### Is reclaimed water safe?

Reclaimed water is intended for non-potable uses only. People should not drink this water, but it is safe to use for other purposes, like watering lawns. Reclaimed water goes through an extensive filtration and disinfection process. It is monitored and tested continuously to make sure it goes beyond strict state and federal requirements.



### How do I know if reclaimed water is being used?

It is easy. Purple signs will be posted at any public location where reclaimed water is being used. Every pipe that carries reclaimed water is painted purple.



### What are the benefits of reclaimed water?

There are many benefits, including:

- **Conserving valuable drinking water.** There is an increasing demand for water, and reclaimed water allows us to use drinking water for its intended use.
- **Reducing the amount of nutrients that reach the Chesapeake Bay, like phosphorous and nitrogen.** Fairfax County surpasses state and federal clean water regulations, removing more than 90 percent of the nutrients nitrogen and phosphorous from its wastewater. By using reclaimed water, we can keep even more nitrogen and phosphorous out of the Bay.
- **Generates money for the county.** In the long run, the county will earn money from selling reclaimed water, helping to offset overall costs for taxpayers.

To learn more about this program or request this information in an alternate format, call Wastewater Treatment at 703-550-9740, TTY 711, or visit us at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/water\\_reuse/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater/water_reuse/)