

# Councilwoman urges water-saving effort

by **Diana Balazs** - Apr. 24, 2008 12:03 PM  
The Arizona Republic

PARADISE VALLEY - In an effort to encourage Paradise Valley residents to conserve water, the town has posted information on its Web site with links to water-saving resources.

Councilwoman Mary Hamway worked with Town Clerk Duncan Miller to post the information.

The town's Web site is [www.ci.paradise-valley.az.us](http://www.ci.paradise-valley.az.us). Click on quick links and then on water and [environmental](#) conservation.

There, residents will find information on their water provider, including a map that shows what provider serves which area, water conservation, garbage and recyclable collection, household hazard waste, and computer electronics recycling.

Hamway also is working on an incentive/rebate proposal that would benefit residents who remove grass and replace it with low water use plants. She will discuss the proposals at the May 8 Town Council work-study session.

Hamway chairs the town's Water Committee and has been an advocate for conservation. She converted her own front yard landscape from grass to desert plants and hopes other residents will follow suit.

Hamway said she has spoken to residents who say they would take advantage of such a program.

"Probably out of 50 residents, I would say 25 percent of those have shown some interest in doing something," Hamway said.

Water use has become a hot topic in the town.

Residents served by the private [Arizona](#) American Water Co. experienced sticker shock in 2006 when the Arizona Corporation Commission approved a controversial new rate schedule that included a surcharge for residential and commercial customers who are high water users.

Of Arizona American's approximately 4,700 customers, 20 percent of those are high-block users - residential customers using more than 80,000 gallons per month and resort and other commercial customers using more than 400,000 gallons monthly.

After hearing from town officials, resort operators and residents, the commission agreed to reopen the rate case. That hearing is set for 10 a.m. May 15 at the commission, 1200 W. Washington St.

The town and three of its resorts - the Sanctuary on Camelback Mountain, Marriott's Camelback Inn and the [Scottsdale](#) Renaissance - are interveners in the case, arguing in support of reopening it.

While Hamway expects some relief from the commission, especially for the resorts, she has said those who use more water will still end up paying more for it.