



List of 30

30 Ways Green Sites are Protecting Water

Green Sites across the U.S. are helping protect water resources by implementing groundwater-friendly practices on their sites. They:



1. Use soil moisture sensors to **monitor plant water needs**.
2. Install alarms and *leak detector valves* on irrigation systems.
3. Create “no mow” zones to **save energy, reduce fuel emissions**, and encourage natural habitats.
4. Include **native plants** in new planting beds, limiting the need for irrigation.
5. Regular soil testing to ensure **proper nutrient application**.
6. Maintain **setback distances** when applying fertilizer and pesticides near wells and surface water.
7. Annually *test private drinking water wells* to ensure *safe water* for visitors.
8. Implement **Integrated Pest Management** to cut down on insecticide/pesticide use.
9. Develop **drought plans that set priorities and parameters** of water management during drought periods.
10. Install catchment ponds to **use rainwater for irrigation needs**.
11. **Properly seal or protect** abandoned wells, limiting the risks of direct groundwater contamination.
12. **Apply fertilizer and pesticides properly**, including ceasing application when wind speed is great enough to alter distribution.
13. Adopt new products or application techniques that **minimize the potential negative impacts** of insecticides/pesticides/fertilizers/herbicides.
14. Store, mix, and load fertilizers and pesticides on impervious surfaces capable of containing a spill, *limiting the negative impacts* these chemicals can have on the surrounding environment.
15. Have a written spill containment plan in place to ensure all employees are able to **respond quickly and effectively to a chemical spill**.
16. Inspect equipment to ensure sprayers and spreaders are **properly working** and are not leaking.
17. **Contain and treat** waste/wash water from equipment cleaning.

18. **Contain and properly dispose of** any tank rinsate by professional or distributed over an area of similar land use.
19. **Properly store** on-site fuel and **regular monitoring** of above and below ground tanks for leaks.
20. *Minimize runoff and contaminant loading to adjacent water bodies* with porous parking areas.
21. Increase buffer zones along stream/creek banks to *minimize erosion/sediment loading*.
22. Create rain gardens and bioswales to **manage stormwater runoff**.
23. Provide **first-hand experience** to visitors in wetlands and streams, promoting their importance to wildlife and humans.
24. Create and maintain **habitat for wildlife**.
25. *Educate internal staff*, demonstrating dedication to protecting groundwater and ensuring staff know and understand the practices adopted to protect groundwater.
26. *Educate site visitors* about the groundwater-friendly practices being implemented.
27. Use of **environmentally-friendly** cleaning products.
28. *Collect and compost* organic materials and *reuse* of trimmed trees as mulch on site.
29. Utilize **rain barrels** to reduce water consumption.
30. **Recycle**, reducing landfill waste and **prevent** harmful contaminants like batteries, tires and used oil out of landfills.

Want to join the ranks and get a site in your community designated as a Green Site? [Find out how!](#)

Find out if there's a Green Site [in your area](#).