



SOUTH FLORIDA WATER MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

NEWS RELEASE

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Fire Station Makes Sparks as First 'Water Star' Building

Fire Station 22 in Martin County is the first commercial building in the SFWMD region to be certified for meeting this water conservation standard



Fire Station 22 has drought-tolerant landscaping and rain barrels that capture rain water to conserve water.

Martin County, FL – A new fire station in Martin County is the first commercial building in the South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) region to earn a Florida Water Star certification for meeting high standards for water conservation features.

SFWMD Executive Director Melissa Meeker presented a Water Star plaque at Martin County's ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new firehouse on Saturday.

"Homes and buildings that use Water Star standards are saving water that is needed for the environment – and firefighting," said Meeker. "We commend Martin County for its leadership in building environmentally-friendly resources, and we are hopeful many others will follow suit to promote water conservation."

Florida Water Star is a certification program used throughout Florida to encourage water savings in homes and commercial buildings by implementing the use of water-efficient appliances, plumbing fixtures, irrigation systems and landscapes. Developed

by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Water Star program has been implemented by the SFWMD in the South Florida region by training and working with certifiers to confirm that the water-saving criteria are met.

An SFWMD-trained certifier verified that the firehouse had achieved enough points to qualify for Florida Water Star certification. The firehouse has low-flow sinks and showerheads and uses rain barrels to collect water for landscaping.

“Station 22 is another example of how Martin County is always looking to conserve our resources and protect our environment,” said Martin County District 5 Commissioner and Chairman Edward Ciampi. “We appreciate the recognition of SFWMD for our efforts in building sustainable and energy-efficient facilities.”

The 6,543-square-foot Fire Station 22 serving the Tropical Farms area also earned certification for meeting requirements of the Florida Green Building Coalition as well as Florida-Friendly Landscaping. The building’s green features also include reflective roofing materials and solar lighting.

Florida Water Star can be effectively integrated into building projects along with programs such as the Florida Green Building Coalition’s green standards and the U.S. Green Building Council’s Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). While many of these programs provide general guidelines for water efficiency, Florida Water Star specifically addresses water uses and conservation savings, further enhancing effectiveness of the other programs.

Water Star has been implemented in several new homes in Martin County, including some constructed by Habitat for Humanity. Statewide, there are more than 400 homes certified through Florida Water Star.

Builders can apply through a certification specialist to earn a Florida Water Star plaque.

For more information on the Water Star program, click [here](#). For more tips on how to conserve water, visit www.savewaterfl.com.

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About the South Florida Water Management District

The South Florida Water Management District is a regional, governmental agency that oversees the water resources in the southern half of the state – 16 counties from Orlando to the Keys. It is the oldest and largest of the state’s five water management districts. The agency mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems and water supply. A key initiative is cleanup and restoration of the Everglades.