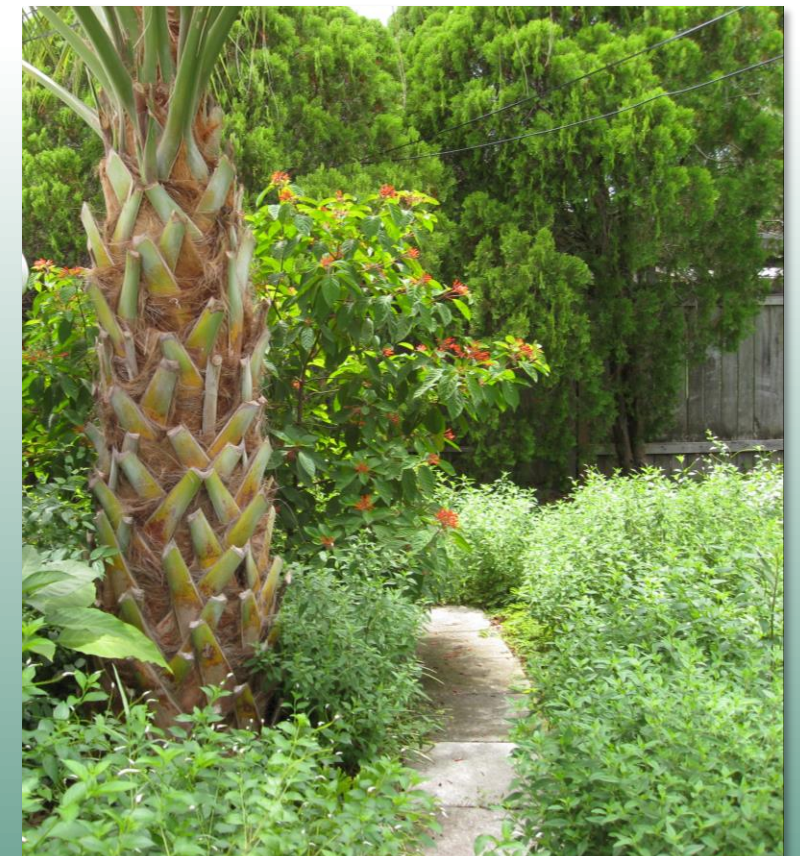


Florida-Friendly Water Star Gold

February 9, 2023 FGBC Webinar Series



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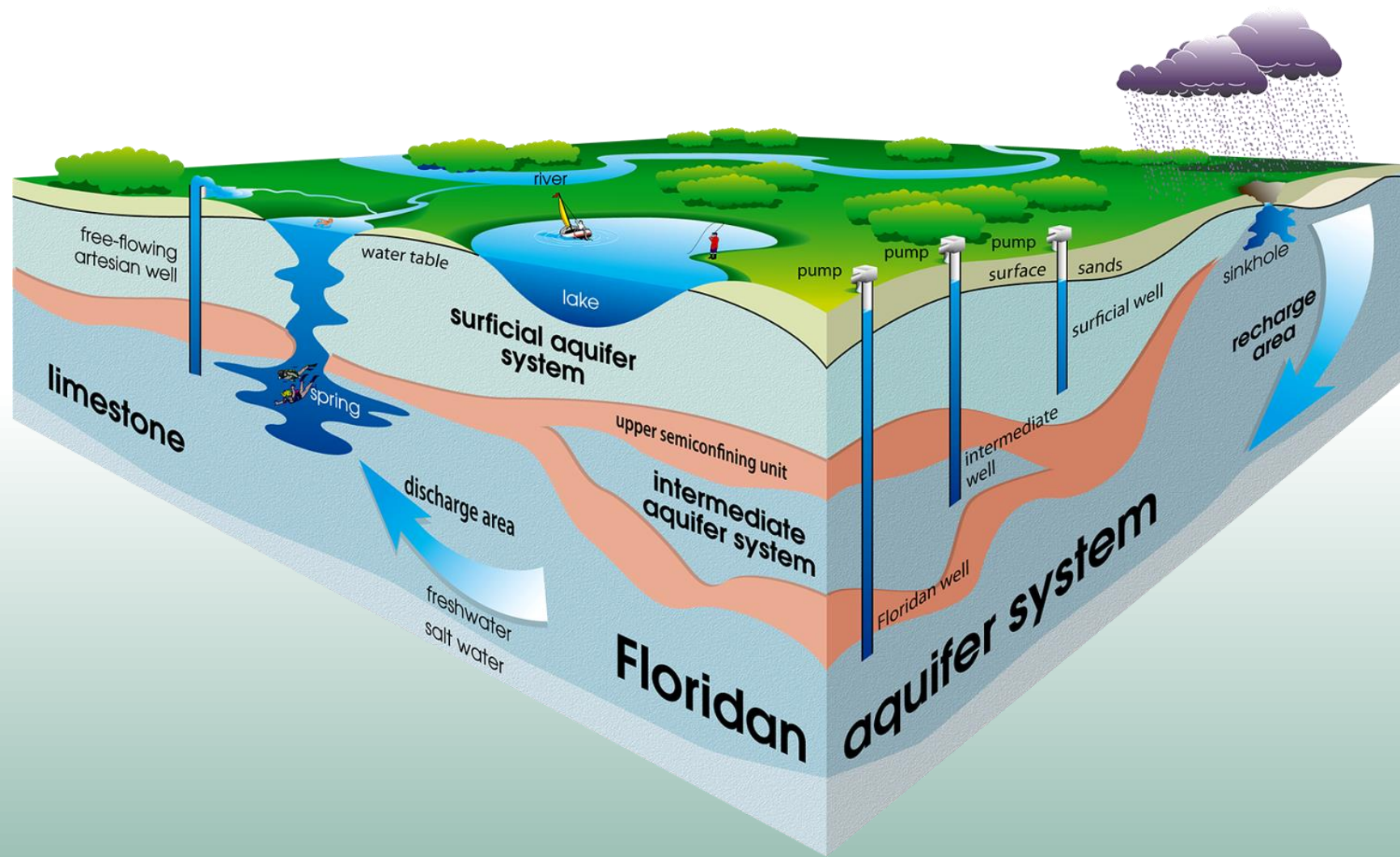
Florida-Friendly Landscaping Program

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The Backstory



**More than 90%
of our water
comes from the
aquifer system**



FRESHWATER



Aquifer

SALT WATER



What happens when we overuse the aquifer?





- ❑ Acts like a sponge, drawing water down from the land surface
- ❑ Draws salt water up into freshwater zones

Overconsumption

- ❑ Dries out wetlands
- ❑ Lowers lake levels
- ❑ Reduces spring flows
- ❑ Increases the occurrence of sinkholes
- ❑ Impairs water quality (via through saltwater intrusion)
- ❑ Threatens drinking water supply volumes (especially during peak demand times)
- ❑ As of 2021, the largest use sector is Public Water Supply



Water Supply Planning

-  Districtwide water supply plan and regional plans
-  Plan 20 years out
-  Several planning regions
-  Recommendations can influence local water use decisions



Water Efficiency

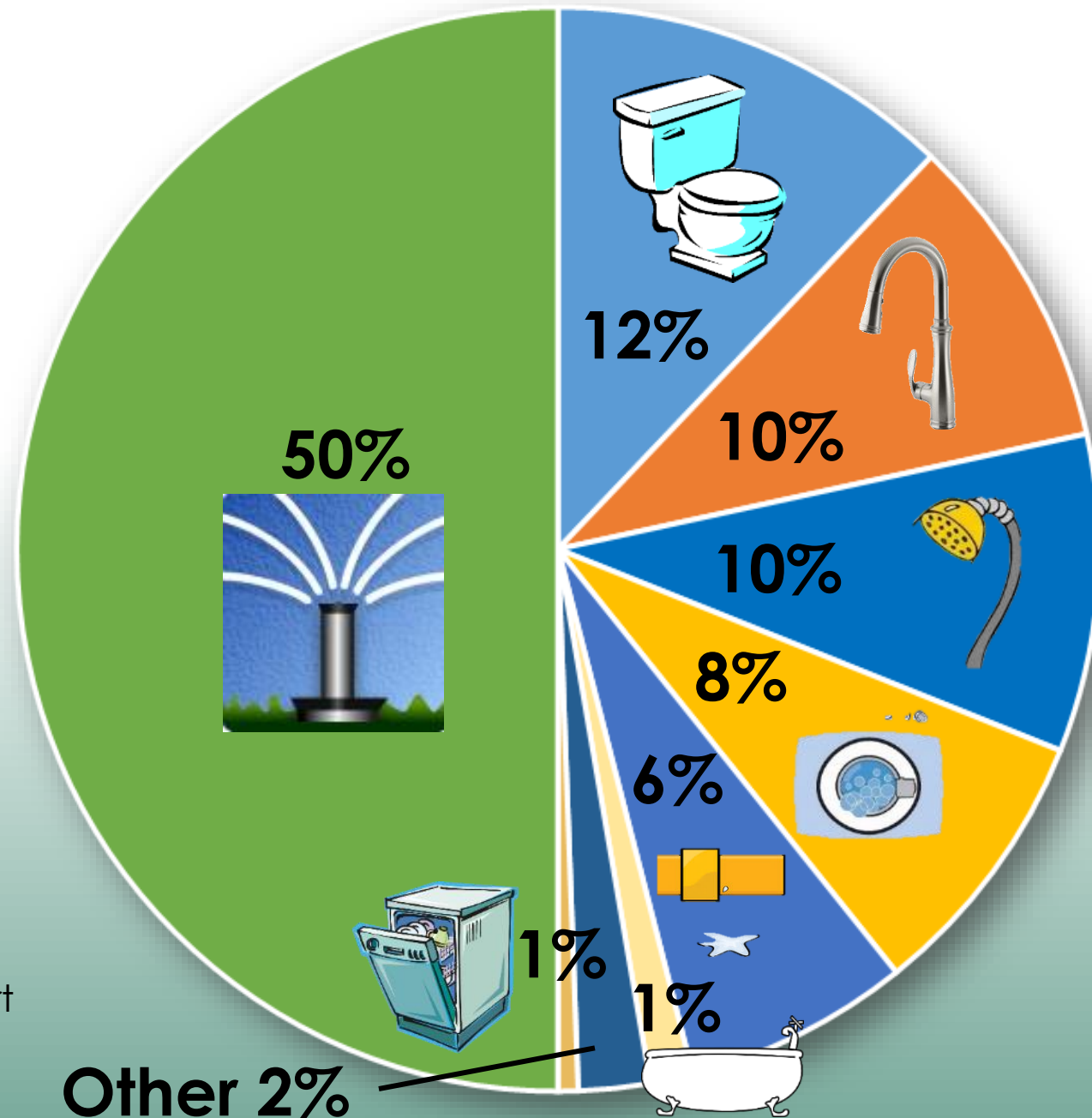
- Water efficiency is essential for new and existing residents no matter the water source.
- FWS focuses on new construction so it can perform efficiently over time.
- Strategies for existing residents can be discussed separately.



Residential Water Use

Outdoor

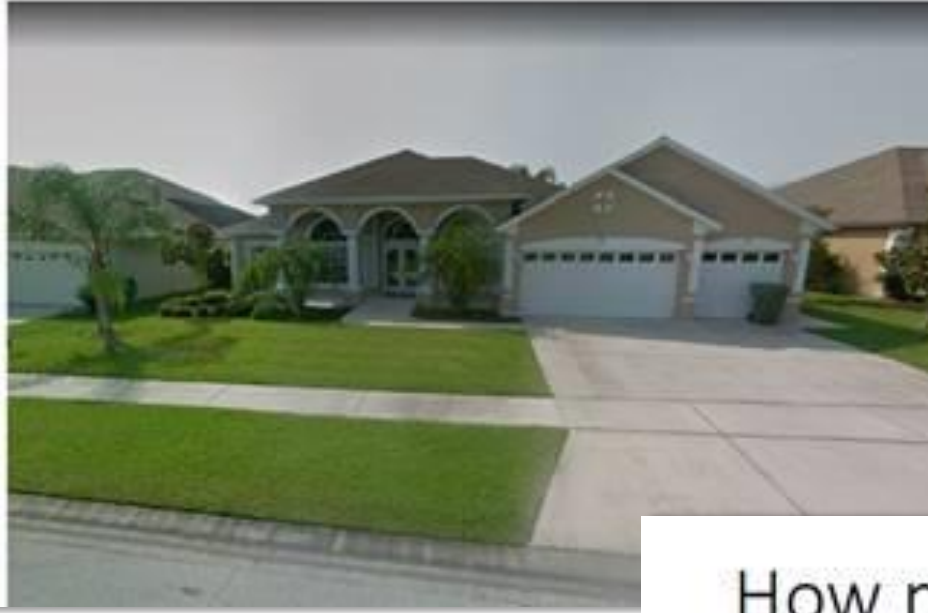
Indoor



Source: 2016 AWWA report

How much **POTABLE** water do **NEW** Florida homes use for landscape irrigation?

- **New Homes**
built since 2015
(38,811 homes)
- **Indoor:**
118 gpd (45%)
- **Outdoor:**
133 gpd (55%)



How much **RECLAIMED** water do Florida homes use for landscape irrigation?

- **Reclaimed Use**
(27,788 homes)
- **Indoor:**
119 gpd
- **Outdoor:**
274 gpd



Irrigation and Water Supply



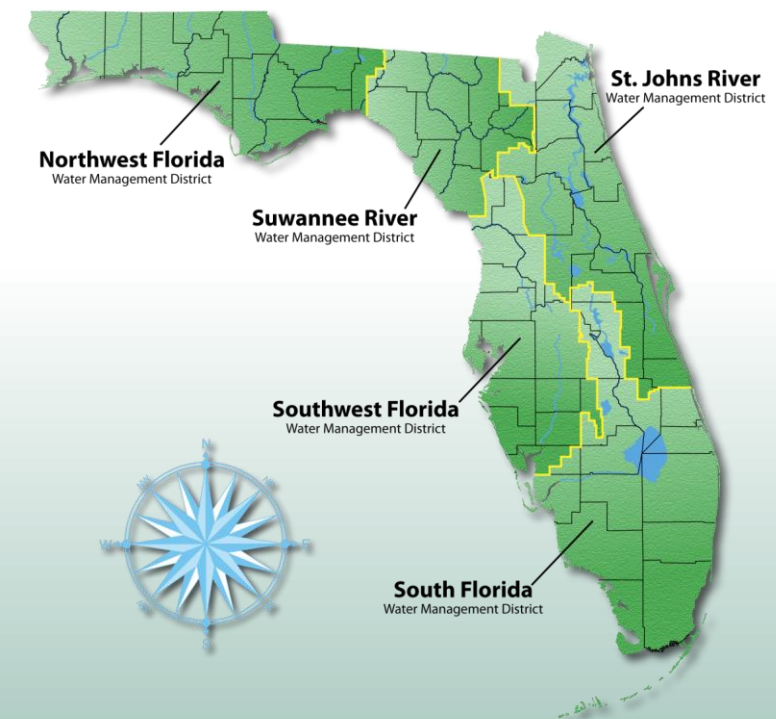
Irrigation is seen as the low-hanging fruit for conservation, hence Florida Water Star, landscape codes, and irrigation restrictions.





What is Florida Water Star?

- ❑ Florida Water Star was developed by and is owned by the St. Johns River Water Management District but is available statewide
- ❑ SWFWMD and SFWMD are partners to implement the program
- ❑ In 2017, the SJRWMD signed an agreement with the Florida Homebuilders Association to administer certification of all FWS projects

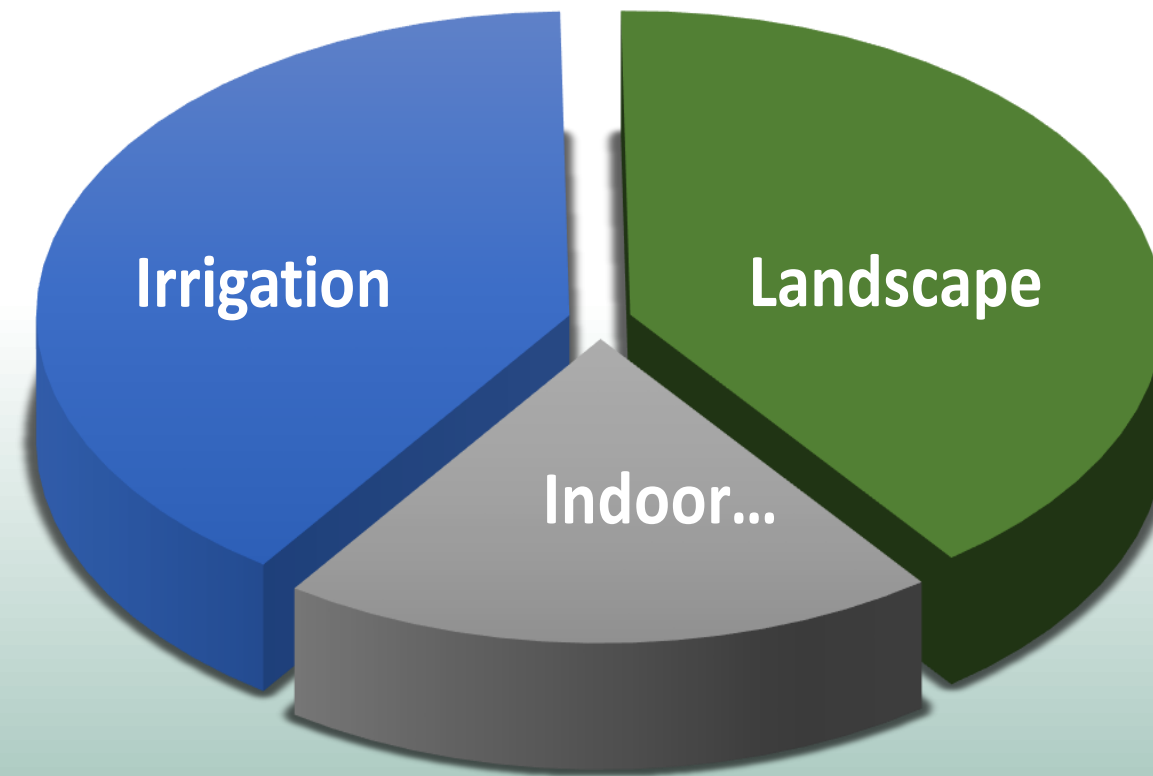


Florida Water Star Versions

| Version | Status | Projects to Date |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| Residential (Silver & Gold) | Launched in 2006 | 9,000+ |
| Commercial and Institutional (CI) | Launched in 2012 | 42 |
| Community | Launched in 2012 | 18 |



Florida Water Star Categories



Applicant must complete all categories

Gold Revision

- 2019 FWS and Florida Friendly Landscaping began developing a joint certification tier
- Goal: Create a residential certification with strong water quality and quantity criteria
- Extensive draft review by UF landscape experts and TAC
- Incorporates **Homeowner Follow-up**



Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Program

Florida Statute 373.185

FFL for Homeowners

- Homeowners
- Gardeners
- Youth

Florida-Friendly Communities

- Municipalities
- Builder & Developers
- Property managers

Green Industries BMP Program (GI-BMP)

- Landscape maintenance professionals

Florida Statute 403.933 &
482.1562

Nine Principles of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™

- Right plant, right place
- Water efficiently
- Fertilize appropriately
- Mulch
- Attract wildlife
- Manage yard pests responsibly
- Recycle yard waste
- Reduce stormwater runoff
- Protect the waterfront





Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ LEGISLATION

- FFL-Chapters 373.185; 720.3975, F.S.
- GI-BMP – Chapters 482.1562; 403.933, F.S.

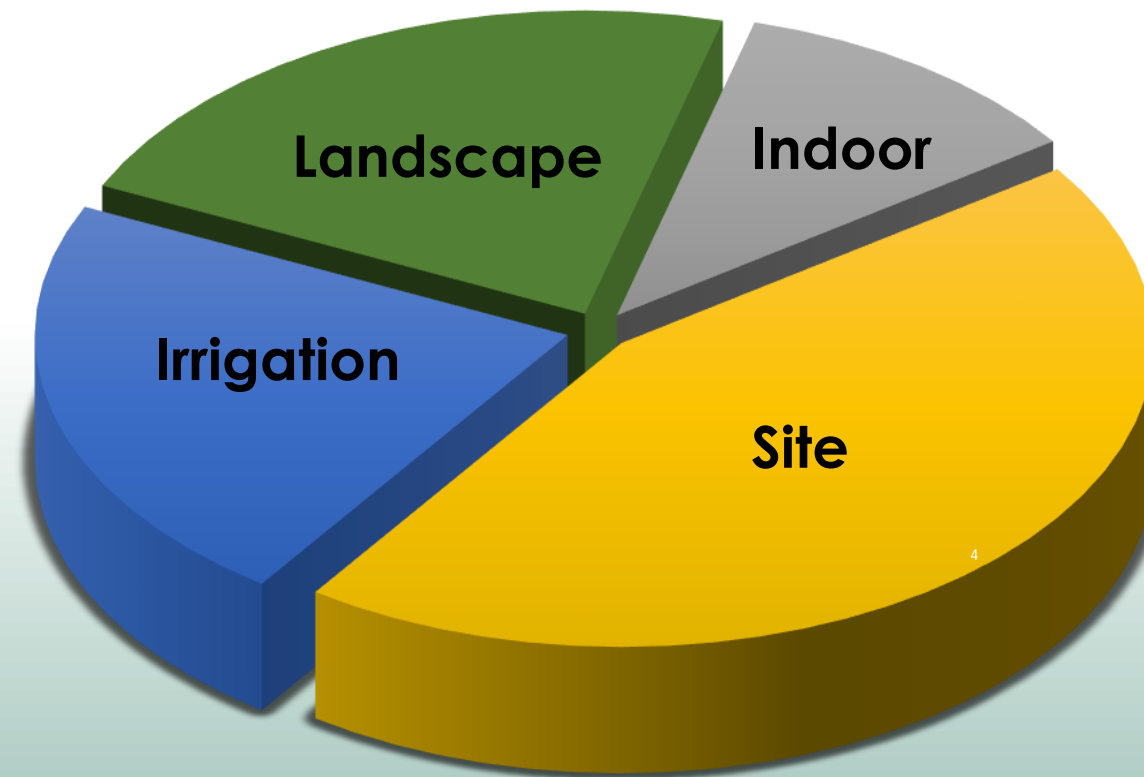




Highlights of Chap. 373.185, F.S.

- Homeowner association (HOA) and local government ordinances may not prohibit any property owner from implementing FFL.
 - Replaced the term “Xeriscape” with Florida-Friendly Landscaping™
- Does NOT invalidate HOA or local code restrictions

Florida Water Star **Gold** Categories



Applicant must complete all categories



Gold Highlights

Adds a new section called “Site”



Gold Site Points



- New category addresses both water and soil quality
- Nine criteria total -- two of which apply to waterfront homes
- To certify as GOLD, you must achieve 30 points

| Site Criteria (a minimum of 30 points shall be achieved) | | Points Possible | Points Earned |
|---|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| S 1 | 30% or more of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural vegetative state, or; | 15 | |
| | At least 20% of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural state, or | 10 | |
| | At least 10% of the lot shall be undisturbed and in a natural state. | 5 | |
| S 2 | Organic soil amendments, when used, shall be incorporated into the top 6 inches of existing soil per the manufacturer's installation recommendations. | Up to 20 | |
| S 3 | Green stormwater infrastructure, if present, shall be installed and landscaped appropriately. | Up to 20 | |
| S 4 | Pervious surfaces shall be awarded points when installed in place of impervious materials or irrigated areas. | Up to 20 | |
| S 5 | Downspouts shall be directed to pervious areas onsite, two feet or more from foundation. | 15 | |
| S 6 | Innovative water runoff or conservation strategies are used. | Up to 10 | |
| S 7 | Construction waste remaining on the landscaped areas at time of inspection. | Subtract 5 | |
| Requirement for Property Bordering a Water Body (a minimum of 10 points shall be achieved) | | | |
| S 8 | Non-irrigated vegetated terraces, swales or berms are used to reduce stormwater from entering the water body. | Up to 20 | |
| S 9 | A minimum 10-foot-wide border of unirrigated, site-appropriate plants is created parallel to the shoreline/seawall. | Up to 10 | |
| | TOTAL | | |



Gold

Green Stormwater Infrastructure



Points

Green stormwater Infrastructure, if present, shall be installed and landscaped appropriately.

Up to 20





Gold

Pervious Surfaces



| | Points |
|---|-----------------|
| Pervious surfaces shall be awarded points when installed in place of impervious materials or irrigated areas. | Up to 20 |



Gold Indoor Goals

- Reduced leaks
- Efficient fixtures and appliances
- Efficient hot water distribution
- Features this EPA label



Gold Landscape Goals

- ☑ Site-appropriate plants
- ☑ Reduction in irrigated turf grass
- ☑ Preserve existing vegetation
- ☑ Increased shade areas
- ☑ **Enhancements:**
 - ⚡ **Increased diversity**
 - ⚡ **Focus on natives**



Gold Irrigation Goals

- ❑ Reduced leaks
- ❑ Precipitation rates matched to plant water requirements
- ❑ Even distribution within zones
- ❑ Correct scheduling
- ❑ **New: Smart Controller**
- ❑ **New: Water Budgets**



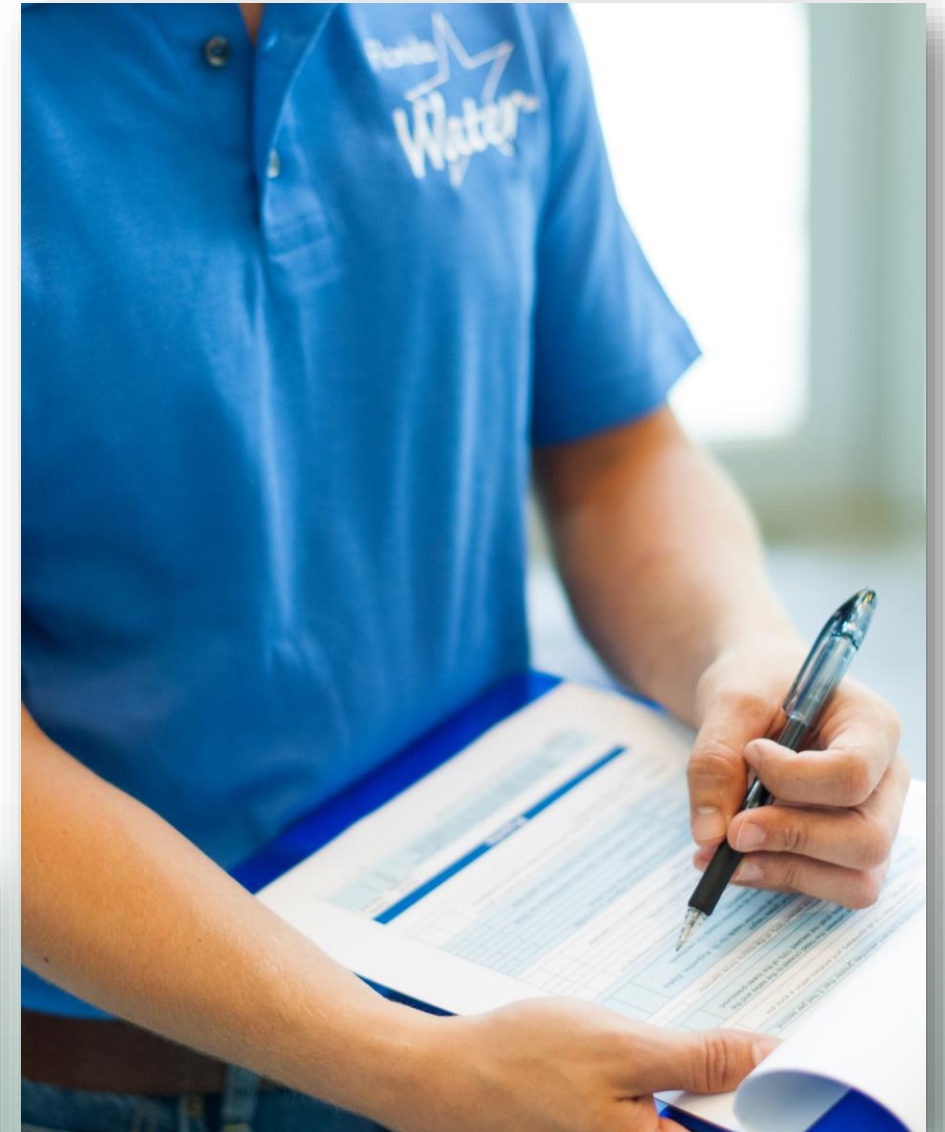
Gold Homeowner Follow-up

- ❑ Much-needed component
- ❑ Coordinated through FFL state office
- ❑ Homeowner contacted 2 – 3 months after move-in
- ❑ Offers local Irrigation and landscaping assistance
- ❑ Intent is to help the homeowner track water use



What is Certification?

Third-party certification means that an independent party has reviewed the project and determined that it meets the specific criteria of the Florida Water Star Program.



Why Certify?

- ❑ To sell a better product with reduced utility fees for buyer
- ❑ To allow home to score higher on Green MLS
- ❑ To distinguish the product in the marketplace
- ❑ To receive promotion, certificate and plaque upon certification
- ❑ Required as per local code

Adoption of FWS in Code

For builders to obtain Certificates of Occupancy, the following municipalities require FWS certification (and qualify for FWS rebates) or the submission of FWS affidavits (do not qualify for rebates):

- Mulberry
- Davenport
- Bartow
- Polk City
- Lake Alfred
- Lake Hamilton
- Dundee
- Haines City
- Auburndale
- Eagle Lake
- Frostproof

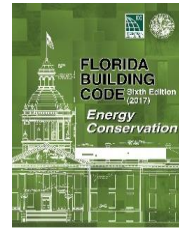
The following municipalities and entities have significant portions of FWS written into code:

- Alachua County
- Apopka
- Clermont
- Groveland
- Lake County
- Ocoee
- Palm Coast
- St. Johns County
- Toho Water Authority
- Volusia County
- Winter Garden

The Certification Process



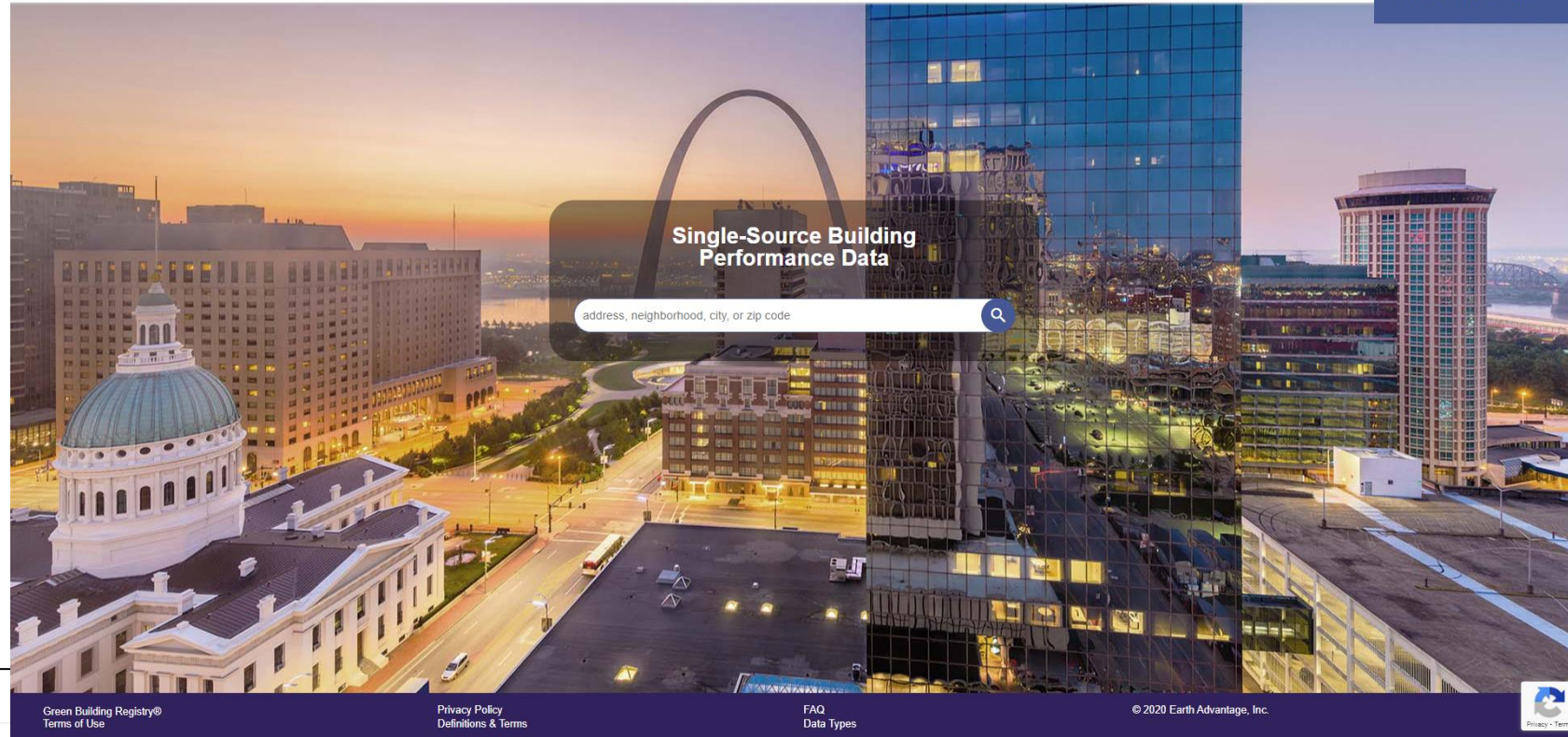
Certification & Quality Assurance



Who's Who in the FWS program

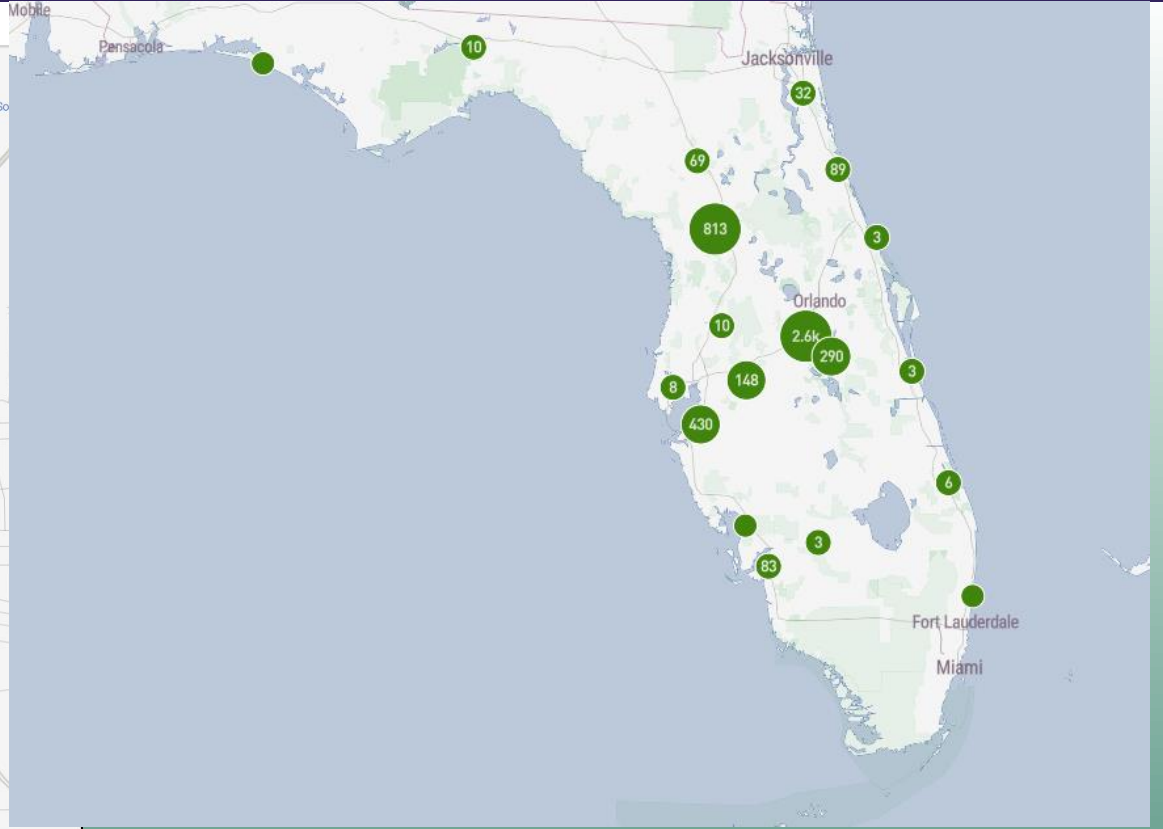
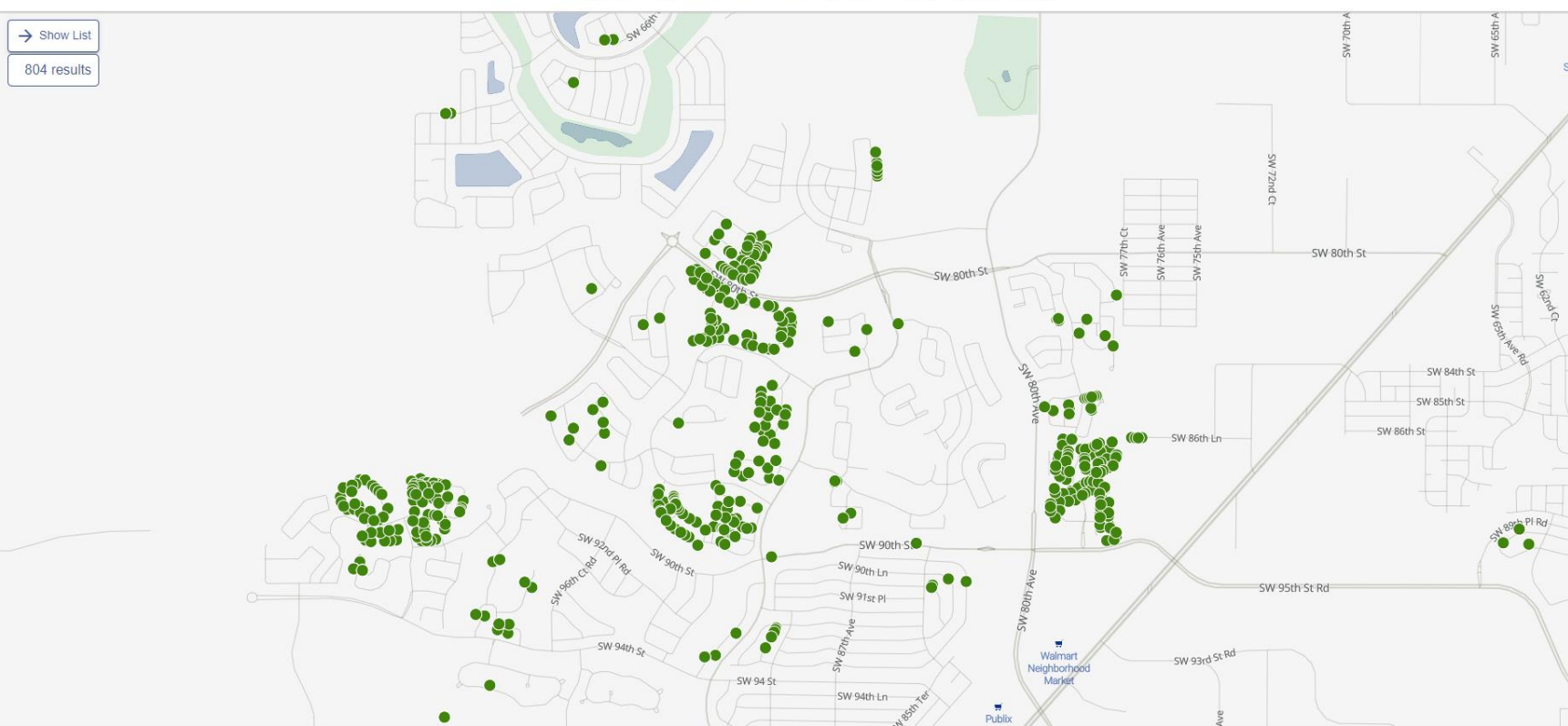
- ☑ **AP** designs and installs landscape
 - ⚡ Not mandatory
- ☑ **Inspector** inspects and submits report via Certified Ratings Portal
- ☑ **Certified Ratings Program** issues certification
- ☑ **TAC** issues a position on variances and new criteria
- ☑ **APs** or other contractors cannot also inspect for certification

Green Building Registry



Ocala, FL, USA

Property Type Certification Type More Filters Clear All Filters



In Other News

 FWS launched a campaign to attract homeowners, Jan – March 2023



NEW FWS
Facebook page
Like us TODAY!

Thank you for your time!

Questions?

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