



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Irrigation Society Announces 2022 Water Conservation Award Recipients

St. Petersburg, Fla– On July 29, 2022, the Florida Irrigation Society presented three companies and a government agency with their prestigious Water Conservation Awards for their efforts to conserve Florida's water resources. Receiving the top residential conservation award was Insight Irrigation, Eustis, Fla and honorable mention went to Irrigation Technical Services, St. Petersburg, Fla and Aqua Cops Water Systems, Inc, Sanford, Fla. Martin County, Fla received the Government Entity/ Non Profit Organization award for their support of the county's new landscape watering ordinance.

MARTIN COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION AWARD

The 2022 Water Conservation Award in the category of Government Agency/NonProfit Organization was presented to Martin County, Florida for the development and implementation of a new ordinance on water restrictions that allows for variances from a two-day only to a modified water schedule for systems installed by licensed contractors and per best irrigation practices.

Accepting the award at the Florida Irrigation Society's 2022 Florida Water Summit, Martin County Commissioner Harold Jenkins explained, "We designed the ordinance to ensure the efficient use of landscape irrigation; to conserve and protect water resources and ecosystems for future generations." The county's year-round ordinance aligns closely with the South Florida Water Management District's (SFWMD) mandatory year-round Landscape Irrigation Conservation measures and applies to landscape irrigation within the unincorporated portion of Martin County. The ordinance permits landscape watering for existing landscaping within specific parameters, allows for some exceptions and incorporates a process to apply for a variance.

FIS president, Matthew Shreves, in announcing the award stated, "It was a unanimous decision of the FIS Board to select Martin County for its precedent setting water conservation ordinance. The County Commission worked in collaboration with FIS members and SFWMD to develop a workable variance for contractors, district and county agencies, and the public that will best serve the community. Our expectation is that other counties will follow Martin County's lead when developing their own ordinances."

Detailed information about the ordinance can be found at www.martin.fl.us/waterwisely. Residents are encouraged to visit www.martin.fl.us, Martin County's online resource for services, news and information, and connect with Martin County on social media. Follow them on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#)

RESIDENTIAL WATER CONSERVATION PROJECT AWARD

Nominations for the Residential Water Conservation Project Award were submitted for consideration from FIS members working as part of a team or as a single entity. The project had to demonstrate water conservation and/or water quality improvement. The top award was presented to Insight Irrigation, Eustis, Fla at the Florida Irrigation Society's 2022 Water Summit in Orlando, Fla. The winning projects covered the Florida East Coast from Jupiter to Daytona Beach and decreased water usage for irrigation by as much as 50%. The company utilized a full range of modern tools available to professional irrigators today from water audits, electronic monitoring, drone imagery, and continual system analysis to timely repairs in order to reduce unnecessary water usage while maintaining healthy landscapes.

Honorable mention for their efforts to improve Florida's water resources were given to Irrigation Technical Services, St. Petersburg, Fla and Aqua Cops Water Systems, Inc., Sanford, Fla.

Upon receiving the top award Aaron Smith, Insight Irrigation President, stated, "Insight Irrigation is honored to accept the FIS 2022 Water Conservation award. Since establishing the company approximately 10 years ago, we have made it our goal to offer our clients practical and efficient irrigation systems. We owe our growth and success to several people, one of whom is Dierdre Irwin, from the St. Johns Water Management District. We have worked with her for many years on the best practices for water conservation. She has been one of our biggest supporters. Insight Irrigation has worked with contractors throughout the state of Florida and we are thankful to all of them for this opportunity."

Matthew Shreves, FIS President reviewed the importance of water conservation and why FIS has chosen to recognize the efforts of its members. He stated, "FIS members are among the most dedicated professionals in Florida to the concepts and implementation of water conservation methods and water quality. Our Board felt it was time to recognize those efforts and let the public and irrigation industry know of their achievements. Most people do not realize that a minimum of 50% of Florida's water goes to irrigation; so, managing water "one drop at a time" is significant. I thank all of FIS members and especially our 2022 award winners for their daily efforts and project excellence in conserving Florida's water resources."

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About the Florida Irrigation Society (FIS)

The Florida Irrigation Society is a not-for-profit Society established in 1966, with a goal of promoting sound irrigation practices through awareness and education. With 9 chapters throughout the state, the membership consists of irrigation contractors, irrigation designers, consultants, educators, equipment manufacturers, equipment distributors, municipalities and students. FIS provides its members with updates on regulatory and legislative matters in addition to education opportunities and a quarterly electronic magazine (the PIPELINE).

About the Martin County Board of County Commissioners

The five-member Board of County Commissioners is the legislative governing body of Martin County. Each Commissioner is elected to a four-year term by voters in the countywide area. Chapter 125.01 of the Florida Statutes establishes the specific duties and powers of the Board of County Commissioners. Exercising their legislative powers, the County Commission adopts ordinances (local laws) and resolutions to establish policies and programs to protect the health, safety and general welfare of Martin County residents.

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