

spots, mounds, low areas, greens, tees, etc.

5. Consider manually knocking a minute or two off computer-generated run times to save water.

6. Monitor and note stations where time can be reduced without sacrificing turf quality or playability.

7. Investigate alternative sources of water to reduce dependence on wells – reclaimed water, storm water, surface

water and horizontal wells. If considering switching to seashore paspalum turf you may be able to tap into a brackish water aquifer.

8. Invest in a water audit to maximize system efficiency.

9. Experiment with self-imposed restrictions on water use to test the limits of your turf before you are forced to cut back. Try the practice range or a rough. By learning how to “harden off”

the turf you can prepare the course to better withstand mandatory watering restriction.

10. Consider using moisture retaining soil amendments on hot spots.

11. Install high/low pressure cutoff switches and remote soil moisture sensors.

12. Communicate and document what you are doing to conserve water.

**SUPER TIP**

**Going for the Green**

*By Darren J. Davis*

“Going green” has become a popular, feel-good catch phrase, but “going green” can often cost lots of green, thus deterring the effort. At Olde Florida we have always adhered to the legal recycling requirements with the proper disposal/recycling of used oil, batteries and tires. In Collier County, business recycling of paper, plastic, cardboard etc. comes at a cost.

Recently my equipment manager attended a Turf Equipment Service Technicians Association meeting and the Collier County recycling coordinator, the guest speaker, provided take-home materials that outlined tips for going green. After reviewing the materials with key staffers, we determined that we could

institute several programs that would be beneficial to the environment and remain cost-neutral.

Our initial efforts included eliminating plastic silverware and Styrofoam cups in the breakroom, saving over \$1,400 annually and reducing waste.

According to invoices, we had been spending at least \$1,100 a year on paper towels in the golf course operation facility. The three towel dispensers were replaced with electric hand dryers. I had not been a fan of electric hand dryers

but the Exlerator brand units we purchased are exceptional. They provide excellent air velocity with minimal electricity. The units will pay for themselves in a little more than a year.

We also initiated club-wide collection and recycling of plastic containers and cardboard. Most of the plastic is from the water bottles we supply golfers, but containers were also placed in the kitchen and the golf course operations facility.

Cardboard boxes are also collected from all departments and placed in a 2-yard recycling bin. Collier County provided a list of licensed recycling vendors, and after research by my office manager, the fee we pay for three 96-gallon plastic recycling bins and one 2-yard cardboard bin is \$112 a month. To recover the additional cost of those recycling bins we can now reduce the size of our existing waste dumpster from 8-yard to 4-yard which will result in a monthly saving of \$123.00.



*Electric hand dryers (top left) save Olde Florida \$1100 on paper towels annually; dumpster and water bins are a cost-neutral way to “go greener.” “Plastic Only” containers save labor costs to sort waste.*

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