



## Fact Sheet: Smart Irrigation Study

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- In 2005, Orange County Utilities began an extensive effort to develop the plans for alternate water sources in Orange County due to the prediction that the primary source of drinking water in Florida (the Floridan Aquifer) would reach its sustainable level by 2013.
- Research at the University of Florida and in other areas of the U.S. has shown that Smart Irrigation Controllers have the potential to conserve water by efficiently scheduling irrigation.
- Since more than 50 percent of the residential water use is for irrigation, Orange County Utilities became interested in Smart Irrigation Controllers as a potential practice to reduce landscape irrigation water use with residential customers.
- Commissioner Boyd is a strong proponent of this study. Coming from an agricultural background, he realizes the great importance of water conservation.
- Commissioner Boyd has been instrumental in gaining support for the project, which was approved by the Board of County Commissioners in August of 2009, and he continues to champion the effort today.
- Customer water use is being tracked for at least a three-year period, and recommendations will be made to the Water Management Districts to support any potential rulemaking regarding the use of Smart Irrigation Devices.
- As of February 2014, Utilities began to survey all 167 study participants to gain valuable insight about the products being tested and the study overall. The completed dataset is being analyzed.
- The final report for Phase I of the project will be completed by December 2014.
- The project is focused on using new technologies that can improve the stewardship of natural and economic resources for our community.
- For more information, see the most current report on the [Smart Irrigation Study](#).