

Rocky Hill invites you to...TAKE THE PLEDGE!

I care about protecting the quality of water in our watershed. I know that clean rivers, streams, ponds, wetlands, and aquifers are necessary for health, recreation, and the survival of all creatures. I commit to taking at least four of the following steps to protect our local water resources. I will strive to achieve all where appropriate for my home.

In maintaining my lawn, gardens, and landscape, I will... (Please select a minimum of 2 commitments)

- Nurture native trees, shrubs, and flowers around my home. I will limit lawn areas. I will plant or allow natural buffers to grow at the edges of streams and wetlands.
- Mow my lawn properly, following the rule “mow high and let it lie.” I will use the highest setting on the mower, not cut more than one third of the height of the grass, and allow the clippings to lie as mulch.
- Water my yard infrequently or not at all. I recognize that one inch of water per week is usually fine. I will NOT water overnight or when the sun is high. I will recognize that brown grass is dormant, not dead, and will return to life when rain comes.
- Use fertilizer carefully or not at all. I will have the soil tested to determine what my yard needs. I will never apply phosphorus on an established lawn unless the soil is deficient. If necessary, I will use only a slow-release, low-concentration fertilizer or natural compost.
- Abstain from using pesticides and herbicides. I will protect children, pets, birds, and butterflies from lawn-care toxins. I will only spot treat if absolutely necessary.
- Create natural places for the water to soak into the ground. I will use swales or rain gardens to manage stormwater. I will limit paved areas and will use pervious materials when possible for patios, driveways, and walkways.
- Convert my older, conventional irrigation practices to less wasteful ones, such as trickle irrigation, on my cropland.

In maintaining other areas around my home, I will... (Please select a minimum of 2 commitments)

- Have my septic system pumped out regularly.
- Repair leaky faucets and toilets, and purchase only water-efficient appliances and fixtures.
- Use non-toxic cleaners and “green” building materials in my home.
- Learn how to properly dispose of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications.
- Dispose of pet waste in the trash or a pet-waste processor (better).
- Wash my vehicles in a carwash or on the grass, but not on my driveway.
- Direct my roof runoff into drywells or other infiltration system if the surrounding soils are permeable, well-drained; and it meets Health Code requirements.