



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Florida Irrigation Society Announces 2026 Water Conservation Award Recipients

St. Petersburg, Fla– On August 24, 2026, at the 60th Anniversary Florida Irrigation Society Water Summit, an irrigation company and a government agency were presented with their prestigious Water Conservation Awards for their efforts to conserve Florida's water resources. Receiving the top residential conservation award was Sunrise Irrigation, Palm Harbor, Fla. City of Cape Coral, Fla received the Government Entity/ Non Profit Organization award for the development of the city's new irrigation ordinance.

GOVERNMENT AGENCY WATER CONSERVATION AWARD

The 2026 Water Conservation Award in the category of Government Agency/NonProfit Organization was presented to the City of Cape Coral, Fla for the development and implementation of a new ordinance for the installation of irrigation systems within the city limits.

Accepting the award at the Florida Irrigation Society's 2026 Florida Water Summit, Cape Coral Utilities Director Jeff Pearson stated, "We extend our sincere thanks to the City of Cape Coral staff, members of the Florida Irrigation Society, and the Cape Coral Construction Industry Association for their time, expertise, and collaborative efforts in developing the City's new water conservation ordinance.

This ordinance represents an important step toward responsible water management and long-term sustainability for Cape Coral. We appreciate everyone who contributed their knowledge and perspective to help develop practical conservation measures that will benefit our community for years to come."

FIS president, Mike Prevost, in announcing the award stated, "It was a unanimous decision of the FIS Board to select the City of Cape Coral for its precedent setting water conservation ordinance. The City's Utility Department worked in collaboration with FIS members and other organizations to develop workable regulations for contractors, the city, and the public to adopt that will best serve the community. Our expectation is that other counties will follow Cape Coral's lead when developing their own ordinances."

Past recipients of the Government Agency/Non Profit Organization award are Tampa Bay Water, Bay Laurel Center CCD Water Utility, and Martin County Florida.

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 Sunrise Irrigation, Palm Harbor, Fla at the Florida Irrigation Society's 60th Anniversary Water Summit in Orlando, Fla. The winning project covered seven (7) west coast Florida counties and was distinctive because it was not a single project but the cumulative result of thousands of individual residential service calls..each one a homeowner with a broken sprinkler head, an aging pressure-wasting spray body, or a rotor zone running at higher-than-optimal pressure.

Upon receiving the top award Jose Swett, Sunrise Irrigation Founder and CEO, stated, "Sunrise Irrigation is honored to accept the FIS 2026 Water Conservation award. Since establishing the company approximately 11 years ago, we have made it our motto to 'Take the irritation out of irrigation for residential clients'. We believe that this model, serving one homeowner at a time, across an entire service region, is the most scalable and impactful way to improve overall water conservation in our state. The numbers tell the story. The total projected water savings delivered between June 2025 and June 2026 is 10,330,987 gallons from irrigation repairs."

Mike Prevost, 2026 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:

- sound irrigation practices,
- water and soil conservation, and
- the wise use and modern management of water

Our Board feel it is important 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 2026 award winners for their daily efforts and project excellence in conserving Florida's water resources."

Past Recipients of the Residential Water Conservation Award are Scott King, Preferred Building Systems, Arron Smith, Insight Irrigation and Eddie Duvall, DVI.

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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 Cape Coral Utilities Department

The mission of the Cape Coral Utilities Department is to continue to improve our delivery of cost-effective water, irrigation water, and wastewater collection services by empowering employees to responsively meet customer expectations for quality, value, safety, reliability, and environmental responsibility. The City's Utilities Department is comprised of the following Divisions: Administration, Collection Distribution, Water Production, and Water Reclamation. The Utilities Director and staff provide for the overall management of the existing Utility Operations, which includes the largest operating and capital improvement budgets in the City. This area interacts with agencies such as South Florida Water Management, the US Geological Survey, the Department of Environmental Protection, and other State and Federal Agencies to ensure that all regulatory requirements are fully met; as well as other nationwide Utilities, and local community groups.

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