

Major US City: Waste No Water

“Using this app, the power to conserve water is literally in your hands,”
 said the mayor of this major California city.

The Situation

The state of California is in a severe drought, and many cities require citizens to limit their water usage and to report water waste. One such city, however, is making great strides in educating its citizens and enabling them to report water waste quickly and easily: a major California city, with more than 3 million residents, is leading the pack. The mayor has led a major campaign with the tagline “Waste No Water” with a mobile app at the center of it all.

Before the launch of the app, the process for reporting water waste was somewhat cumbersome and slow; citizens had to report via telephone and email, and often the issue took a long time to be resolved. Now, reporting is almost instantaneous, and allows the problem to be addressed in a timely and efficient fashion.

The Solution

The need for an effective tool to report water waste drove a developer in the city government to evaluate a number of platforms with which he could develop the perfect app for the job. “We looked at other platforms, but Appery.io platform was the most user friendly,” said the developer, “and it is affordable in comparison with other platforms. Furthermore, Appery.io allowed us to leverage our existing skills in JavaScript, CSS, and other programming languages. I was able to use JavaScript easily, both on the client side and the server side, and I liked the layout,” he continued. “The Appery.io team has been so helpful, with excellent customer service.”

Using the app, residents can take a photo of the problem and send it to the city. The location of water waste is automatically included via the device’s GPS capability. If the user creates an account through the application, they can check the status of their report, as well as receive notifications of the latest regulations, changes in watering times, as well as other relevant information. Users can also use the app to request a water survey for their own homes.

The Waste No Water app uses Appery.io database services, server code, and push notifications. The city also developed a companion app for city employees to review the complaints generated through the main app.

Results

Reported on by every local news station and newspaper, and featured in a television commercial, the application got off to a great start, and is expected to quickly reach many thousands of users throughout the city.

With the help of Appery.io and the application, all of these factors will help citizens to better keep track of the water they use, and the water that is being wasted. “Using this app will allow all city residents to report water waste, which will eventually produce water savings,” the developer said. “Our goal is water conservation.”

