Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ law

The law incorporates Florida-friendly landscaping ordinances into state statutes, removing the term "Xeriscape" from state statutes and replacing it with the term "Florida-friendly landscaping."

There are three major changes to the state law that relate to Florida-friendly landscaping:

- No local government ordinance, deed restriction or covenant may prohibit a property owner from applying Florida-friendly landscaping principles and practices to their property.

- No deed restriction or covenant may create a requirement or limitation in conflict with water management district water use regulations, including water shortage orders.

- All water management districts are required to provide several products and services, such as educational brochures and workshops, in support of Florida-friendly landscaping. The District already offers many of these products and services. The new statutory requirements reinforce the District's efforts.

The law also requires the state's water management districts to:
- Provide model Florida-friendly landscaping ordinances to homeowners associations and local governments.

- Revise certain eligibility criteria for District incentive programs for local governments to require Florida-friendly landscaping.

- Promote Florida-friendly landscaping through educational programs, publications and other District activities.

- Use Florida-friendly landscaping on District properties.

- Promote the use of Florida-friendly landscaping on public properties, including highway construction and maintenance projects.

- Work with industry experts to develop standards and guidelines for Florida-friendly landscaping irrigation.

- Require Florida-friendly landscaping as part of a water use permit, such as making a suitable landscape ordinance part of a public supply utility's mandatory water conservation program.

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