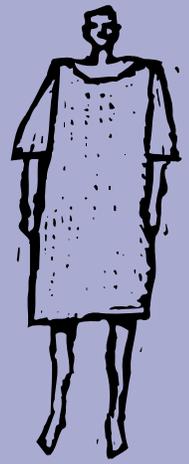


HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

WATER USE EFFICIENCY IDEAS



GENERAL SUGGESTIONS

Conduct a water use efficiency survey of the site. Many water agencies can do this or recommend a third party consultant.

Contact your local water agency to inquire about rebates or financial incentives to offset or minimize cost of water use efficiency measures.

Increase employee awareness of water use efficiency.

Conduct contests for employees (posters, slogans, or efficiency ideas).

Install signs in all restrooms encouraging efficient water use.

When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.

Install sub-meters and read water meters regularly (weekly, monthly) to monitor success of water conservation efforts and to help find leaks.

Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste. Create an easy way for employees to report leaks.

Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.

Use paper cups for drinking water instead of free-flowing drinking fountains.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE

Check water supply system for leaks, and turn off any unnecessary flows.

Repair dripping faucets and showers and running or leaking toilets.

Install ultra low-flush toilets.

Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures where possible. As fixtures wear out, replace them with water-efficient models.

Shut off the water supply to equipment rooms not in use. Discontinue water circulation pumping in unoccupied areas.

Avoid excessive boiler and air conditioner blow down. (Monitor total dissolved solids levels and blow down only when needed.)

Ensure return of steam condensate to the feed-water tank for re-use.

Shut off spray coil units, except where humidity in critical areas cannot be maintained by other means or where the units are used to reduce chiller operation.

Insulate hot water pipes.

Minimize the water used in cooling equipment, such as air compressors, according to manufacturer recommendations.

CAFETERIA AND KITCHEN

Install low flow pre-rinse spray nozzles in dishwashing areas.

Turn off the continuous waterflow used to clean the drain trays of the coffee/milk/soda beverage island. Clean the trays only as needed.

Turn dishwasher off after use. Wash full loads only.

Use water from steam tables to wash down cooking area.

Do not use running water to melt ice or frozen foods. If necessary, use ponded water.

Use water-efficient icemakers.

Provide table signs in cafeteria urging water conservation.

Wash vegetables in ponded water; do not use running water in sink.

Recycle dishwasher rinse water.

Use connectionless food steamers.

Replace spray heads in dishwasher to reduce water flow.

LAUNDRY

Reprogram washing machines to eliminate a rinse or suds cycle, if possible, and if not restricted by health regulations.

HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

Reduce water levels, where possible to minimize water required per load of wash.

Wash only full loads.

Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water use efficiency.

Use water-efficient washing machines.

OPERATIONS

Turn off water required for film processing or cooling in X-ray department when not in use.

Convert from a pass through X-ray processor to one which recirculates water or convert to fully digital equipment.

Recycle water where feasible, consistent with State and county requirements.

Use full loads in sanitizer, sterilizer, dishwasher, and washing machine consistent with infection control requirements.

As appliances or fixtures wear out, replace them with water-saving models.

Reduce the load on air conditioning units by shutting it off when or where it is not needed.

Overhaul steam traps on sterilizers.

Recover condensate from air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, and ice machines; use it as make-up water.

EXTERIOR

Discontinue using water to clean sidewalks, driveways, loading docks, and parking lots. Consider using mobile sweepers.

Wash cars, buses, and trucks less often.

Avoid fertilizing and pruning that would stimulate excessive plant growth.

Remove weeds and unhealthy plants so remaining plants can benefit from the saved water.

Adopt a water budget irrigation schedule. In many cases, older, established plants require less irrigation.

Limit landscaping additions and alterations. Design landscapes requiring less water.

Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems.

Time watering, when possible, for the early morning or evening when evaporation is lowest.

Make sure irrigation equipment applies water uniformly.

Mulch around plants to reduce evaporation and discourage weeds.

Remove thatch and aerate turf to encourage movement of water to the root zone.

Begin a flexible watering schedule, watering only when needed, and not on rainy days.

Avoid runoff and make sure sprinklers cover just the lawn or garden, not sidewalks, driveways, or gutters.

Do not water on windy days.

Water in winter only during prolonged hot and dry periods (during spring and fall, most plants need about half the water that they need during the summer).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

And to request this brochure in an alternate format, contact:
**California Department of
Water Resources**

Office of Water Use Efficiency
901 P Street, Third Floor
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California
94236-0001
seching@water.ca.gov
(916) 651-9667

