

Conserving water at work saves dollars and makes sense

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Water conservation helps homeowners, but businesses can benefit from saving water, too. By reducing the amount of water they use, businesses gain a competitive edge by reducing their own operating costs while helping the environment. Many businesses today are looking to “go green,” not only because it saves money, but also because more and more consumers look to do business with “eco-friendly” companies.

One easy way in which businesses can “go green” and reduce their operating costs is by implementing a water-conservation program. Here are some suggestions on how your company can conserve water and start saving money:

● **Determine how and where you use water**

Find out how much water is being used for each of your organization’s processes, domestic needs, and outside use. To assist you in determining how your on-site water is being used, you may want to install sub-meters in various locations to gauge where the water is going.

● **Check your system for leaks**

Leaks can be detected by having a periodic shutdown of all water-using facilities and reading the water meter at intervals of the shutdown. If the dial on the meter moves, you have leak somewhere in your facility. Once the leak is located, repair it as soon as possible.

● **Set a conservation goal**

Decide on realistic, but challenging, goals for your program. Allow these goals to serve as progress reference points so you can chart the effectiveness of your efforts.

● **Involve your employees**

Many companies post signs throughout their facilities, which help to create an awareness of water conservation among employees. Seek employee suggestions on water conservation and reward those ideas which lead to documented water reductions.

● **Install low-flow devices**

Use toilet-tank displacement devices (which take up space in the toilet tank that water would normally fill) or install vacuum-flush toilets. If you already have these types of fixtures, make sure they are adjusted to use the minimum amount of water required per flush. If employees shower at work, all showering facilities should be equipped with low-flow shower heads. Shower heads with on-off valves provide the opportunity to conserve more water.

● **Monitor your results**

Each water bill includes your consumption history. Use this data to get an immediate idea of how well you are doing compared to last year during the same month’s billing period. Use charts and graphs to keep track of your conservation progress.

Using these suggestions can help businesses establish a culture of water conservation and ultimately affect the company’s bottom line by reducing the cost of doing business.

We live in a semiarid climate where droughts will always be a part of our environment. Water for our future means conserving now. The Drought Response Information Project (DRIP) is a collaboration between the valley’s domestic water utilities and CSU Cooperative Extension to provide information and educate the public about drought and the importance of water conservation.

