



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
Water Department

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What Businesses Should Know about Conserving H₂O
By Luis Generoso, Water Resources Manager

SAN DIEGO – To stay competitive, businesses must always look for ways to decrease overhead costs. The bottom line is: there are ways to save money when businesses use water more efficiently. The Commercial, Industrial, and Institutional (CII) Survey Program is a free service offered to help San Diego businesses save money on their water bills by lowering their water usage.

“This is a great program for local businesses, production plants, hotels and other non-residential facilities to participate in, because a Water Conservation Engineer identifies ways to reduce water consumption without affecting processes or production levels,” advises Chris Robbins, Supervising Management Analyst for the Water Conservation Program.

Through the CII program, the engineer will develop a water conservation action plan with specific recommendations for improving water efficiency. The service includes:

- A review of your facility’s water billing history.
- An appointment with you to observe all water use in the facility and to review water using processes, equipment and existing conservation efforts.
- A detailed report listing modifications, possible retrofit devices, and recommendations on ways to conserve water.
- A description of potential low-cost or non-cost water conservation efforts for immediate consideration.

- A cost/benefit analysis and a calculation of the capital investment payback period for each recommendation.
- A follow-up survey to assess the level of implementation of conservation measures and the actual water savings achieved.

Additionally, the City of San Diego participates in a voucher program that provides financial discounts toward the purchase of water-efficient fixtures and equipment. There are vouchers for ultra low flush toilets and urinals, cooling tower conductivity controllers, and coin-operated high-efficiency clothes washers. Vouchers must be presented at the time of purchase. Call 1-800-986-4538 to request a voucher and for an updated list of vouchers and approved models. The City also offers high-pressure rinse nozzles used in restaurants through the Rinse and Save Program.

“We’re excited at the successes we see,” commented Robbins. “Water Conservation measures implemented by survey participants often yield water savings of 15 percent for commercial operations and 20 percent in industrial settings, without affecting operating methods or product quality.” Schedule an appointment or get more information by calling the Water Conservation Program hotline at 619-515-3500. You are only a phone call away to saving water and saving money.

The Water Conservation Program reduces water demand through promoting or providing incentives for the installation of hardware that provides permanent water savings, and by providing services and information to help San Diegans make better decisions about water use. For more information about Water Conservation and the programs and services listed above, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water or call 619.515.3500.