



WATER CONSERVATION

Businesses

Commercial Water Conservation Programs

Getting down to business saving you water

Water conservation makes good business sense by saving you water, wastewater and energy costs. But, there are many more benefits to saving water including:

- ◆ Extending the life of water using equipment
- ◆ Increasing competitiveness
- ◆ Enhancing public image and attracting new customers
- ◆ Improving property values
- ◆ Increasing employee awareness and participation

Irrigation System Upgrade Rebate

Austin Water offers a rebate of up to \$5,000 for a central computer irrigation controller system. Additional rebates are available for flow sensors, multi-stream nozzles and master valves.

Rainwater Harvesting System Rebate Program

Rebates of \$0.50 per gallon capacity for non-pressurized systems or \$1.00 per gallon capacity for pressurized systems up to a maximum rebate of \$5,000 are available.

Bucks for Business Rebates

Austin Water offers rebates of up to \$100,000 for water saving equipment retrofits and upgrades in facilities such as office buildings, factories, health care facilities, schools, universities, hotels and restaurants. The rebate amount is based on \$0.50/1000 gallons saved over the 10-year lifetime of the rebated equipment or 50% of the cost of the equipment, whichever is less. Examples of eligible upgrades include:

- ◆ Capturing on-site sources of water such as air conditioner condensate or foundation drain water to use for landscape irrigation or cooling water make-up
- ◆ Equipment and processes that reduce the amount of potable water used for cooling towers, including those that maximize cycles of concentration for cooling towers above five cycles
- ◆ Reuse of high quality rinse water used in the high tech industry
- ◆ Laundry water use reduction measures such as ozone treatment and water recycling and reuse systems

Some projects may also qualify for property or sales tax exemptions or other incentives offered by Austin Energy or Texas Gas Company.

Ways Businesses Can Save Water

Water Audit Rebate

Receive up to \$5000 for an independent water audit of your facility to identify potential water and cost savings. To qualify, you must commit to fix any leaks and make any necessary equipment or system adjustments discovered by the audit.

Reclaimed Water

Use of less expensive treated wastewater to meet non-potable water needs such as irrigation and cooling towers. Austin now has two reclaimed water filling stations one located in East Austin on Hergotz Lane and the other at the Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Facility for businesses that need bulk water. Additional locations around the City are being planned.

Information and application forms can be found on all our programs at Austin Water's Conservation web site WaterWiseAustin.org, or call **512-974-2199**.

Detect and fix any leaks

The easiest and cheapest way to save water and money is to periodically check and fix leaks from pipes, fixtures, appliances, and equipment.

Install high efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances

These may include, toilets, urinals, kitchen and bathroom aerators, showerheads, clothes washers, dishwashers, ice machines, food steamers, pre-rinse spray valves, and medical lab equipment.

Make sure your water line pressure is not above 65 psi

Pressure above 65 pounds per square inch in your water line may result in waste and damage to equipment and plumbing. Install a pressure reduction valve to lower water pressure and keep water efficiency high.

Install native and drought tolerant plants

Replace water-thirsty turf with Bermuda or Buffalo grasses, which are more likely to survive future droughts, or with permeable hardscapes, mulching, or non-irrigated beds.

More ways to save 



Perform periodic irrigation system evaluations and install a separate irrigation meter

Automatic irrigation systems need to be maintained and regularly checked to ensure they are on the proper settings to provide only the amount of water plants and lawns need. This evaluation is required for commercial properties over one acre. This includes checking that the controllers and timers are set to be consistent with current watering restrictions. A separate meter for irrigation will also help better measure irrigation use and identify leaks and other water saving opportunities. Credit on your wastewater bill may be provided for sub-metered irrigation water use.

Install water saving equipment to cooling towers

Significant water savings can be achieved by reducing the amount of water used for cooling towers. Register your cooling tower with Austin Water and receive information on how to increase water efficiency and save on water irrigation bills.

Install a rainwater and/or air conditioning condensate collection system


A blended rainwater and air conditioner condensate collection system can be used to meet non-potable water needs year-round. Condensate is available when the weather is hot and dry, and air conditioning units are running at their fullest. Stored rainwater supplement the supply when the weather turns cooler and air conditioning systems are not in use.

Institute an employee water conservation awareness and education program

Get your customers and employees involved with your water conservation programs. It will reduce costs and attract customers who value conservation.


Follow the watering restrictions schedule




Depending on drought conditions, Austin has several strategies that determine what watering restrictions are in place. Check WaterWiseAustin.org regularly for the most current water restrictions.




CONSERVATION STAGE

COMMERCIAL / MULTI-FAMILY



-  **AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION**
Even Address: **Tuesday** Odd Address: **Friday**
-  **HOSE-END SPRINKLERS**
Even Address: **Tuesday** Odd Address: **Friday**
-  **HOURS FOR BOTH**
Midnight - 10 AM, 7 PM - Midnight

 Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation: Any Day/Any Time

