



Water Efficiency Tip Sheet

Water – especially hot water – can account for a significant part of a business’s energy costs. By reducing your water usage, you will not only save money on energy, but on water and sewer charges as well.

Here are answers to common questions to help you save water and money.

Q. What appliances are good targets to increase water and energy efficiency?

A. Think carefully about where your business uses the most water, as each business is different. Most buildings include sinks and water heating and cooling systems (such as boilers, water heaters, and cooling towers). Commercial kitchens use dishwashers, ice makers, pre-rinse spray nozzles, and other food-preparation equipment. The hospitality and long-term care industries use showers and laundry washing machines and may have swimming pools. Manufacturers and laboratories may use sterilizers, autoclaves, or process water. Companies with fleets may have vehicle washing stations.

Q. How can I maximize my savings?

A. Check regularly for leaks to ensure hot water isn’t wasted. A good way to do this is by monitoring monthly water and energy bills to spot unusual peaks in usage.

When purchasing equipment, select “low-flow” or Energy Star options. This may include Energy Star dishwashers and clothes washers and low-flow faucet aerators and showerheads.

Consider replacing manual faucets with sensor-operated faucets. If you have a cooling tower, use variable frequency drives on tower fans and install an automatic shutoff control to ensure it does not operate when the building is unoccupied. If your business has washing machines, consider an ozone laundry system.

Other procedures can be adopted at no-cost. Operate dishwashers and washing machines only when full. Scrape and soak dishes instead of rinsing them with running water. Turn back water heater temperature to standard 125 to 130 degrees. Post signs in rest rooms and kitchen to encourage water conservation and report leaks to management. Maintain boilers and cooling towers to manufacturer specifications.

Q. Are rebates available?

A. Some natural gas utilities offer rebates for more-efficient equipment. Contact Energy Smart for information about what your utility offers.

Have questions or need help? Call Energy Smart at (651) 292-4652.