

# A Checklist of Water Conservation Ideas For

# Schools and Colleges

This checklist provides water conservation tips successfully implemented by industrial and commercial users. This list has been revised from the original copy first published and distributed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

## General suggestions

Increase employee, faculty, and student awareness of water conservation.

Conduct contests for employees and students (e.g., posters, slogans, or conservation ideas).

Seek employee and student suggestions on water conservation; locate suggestion boxes in prominent areas.

Install signs in all restrooms encouraging water conservation.

When cleaning with water is necessary, use budgeted amounts.

Read water meter weekly to monitor success of water conservation efforts.

Assign an employee to monitor water use and waste.

Determine the quantity and purpose of water being used.

Determine other methods of water conservation.

## Building maintenance

Check water supply system for leaks.

Turn off any unnecessary flows.

Repair dripping faucets and showers and continuously-running or leaking toilets.

Install flow reducers and faucet aerators in all plumbing fixtures where possible.

Reduce the water used in toilet flushing by either adjusting the vacuum flush mechanism or installing toilet tank displacement devices (dams, bottles, or bags).

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

Shut off water supply to equipment rooms not in use.

Minimize the water used in cooling equipment, such as air compressors, in accordance with manufacturer recommendations.

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

Keep hot water pipes insulated.

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

Instruct clean-up crews to use less water for mopping.

Change window cleaning schedule from periodic to an on-call/as-required basis.



## **Kitchen and laundry areas**

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

Turn dishwasher off when not in use. Wash full loads only.

Replace spray heads to reduce water flow.

Recycle rinse water from the dishwasher or recirculate it to the garbage disposer.

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

Use water conserving ice makers.

Presoak utensils and dishes in ponded water instead of using a running water rinse.

Wash vegetables in ponded water; do not let water run in preparation sink.

Use water from steam tables in place of fresh water to wash down cooking area.

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

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

Only wash full loads of clothes.

Evaluate wash formula and machine cycles for water use efficiency.



## **Pool**

Lower pool water to reduce amount of water splashed out.

Use a pool cover to reduce evaporation when pool is not being used.

Reduce amount of water used to clean pool filters.



## **Exterior areas**

Convert from high-water using lawns, trees, and shrubs to xeriscape -- Landscape design incorporating plants providing beautiful color and requiring less water. In the future, design landscapes that require less water.

Inventory outdoor water use for landscaped areas.

Water landscape only when needed; two-to-three times a week is usually sufficient.

Wash autos, buses, and trucks less often.

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

Avoid landscape fertilizing and pruning stimulating excessive growth.

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

In many cases, older, established plants require only infrequent irrigation. Look for indications of water needs such as wilt, change of color, or dry soils.

Install soil moisture overrides or timers on sprinkler systems.

Time watering, when possible, to occur in the morning or evening when evaporation is lowest.

Make sure irrigation equipment applies water uniformly.

Investigate the advantages of installing drip irrigation systems.

Mulch around plants reducing evaporation and discouraging weeds.

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

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 approximately half the amount needed during the summer.)

For more information, contact: