

Water Conservation Plan for Your Business

A 10 STEP WATER CONSERVATION APPROACH FOR YOUR BUSINESS

LADWP continues to stress the importance of using water wisely. Continued growth in population and commerce, and unpredictable climatic conditions are constant reminders that our water must be managed and used wisely. Since approximately 84 percent of the City's water is imported from hundreds of miles away, it simply does not make sense to waste it.

In view of this situation, LADWP encourages everyone to conserve water. Cooperation from our customers, including commercial and industrial businesses, has been outstanding. However, the effort must continue as water conservation is a necessary and important part of water supply planning for the future.

This page outlines a 10-step approach to a Water Conservation Program for Businesses. These basic guidelines have been proven essential to a successful conservation effort.

1. Start with a desire to eliminate waste

Prior experiences have revealed that for any program to be successful, the desire to conserve water must be present from the highest level of management on down. Upper management should understand and accept the fact that water conservation is necessary, and be fully committed to its support.

2. Appoint a Conservation Manager

It has been shown that those companies which have placed an individual in charge of their conservation program have far better results than companies which never assign such a responsibility to someone. Place someone in charge of your conservation program, making it part of their regular duties. Such a move will enhance the likelihood of positive results.

3. Determine where your water is used

Before implementing any kind of conservation program, know where your water is being used. It is also important to know how much water is being used for each of your firm's industrial processes and/or domestic needs.

4. Check your system for leaks

Learn to read your water meter. It's simple. LADWP can provide information that will guide you through this very important procedure. 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 any movement of the meter dials occur, water is leaking. If a leak is detected, locate and repair it as soon as possible.

5. Set a conservation goal

It is important to have goals. Be realistic. However, the conservation goals should be high enough to require substantial effort. Allow these goals to serve as progress reference points. They will illustrate the effectiveness of your water conservation program.

6. Apply common sense

Use a little common sense to eliminate waste. Request information from LADWP regarding water conservation measures. Look for common conservation opportunities in restrooms, kitchens, laundries and water-using processes. Encourage suggestions from employees to reduce your water consumption.

7. Involve your employees

Teach water awareness. Many companies have posted signs throughout their facilities which help to create an awareness of water conservation among the employees. Creating competition among employees (for instance, establishing which work shift can use the least amount of water) is another idea. Once employees start thinking about their water use, water consumption usually decreases.

8. Install high efficiency devices

Replace non-water saving toilets and urinals with high efficiency models (LADWP offers [rebates](#) for such replacements). If you already have these types of toilets, make sure they are adjusted to use the minimum amount of water required per flush. All showering facilities should be equipped with water-saving showerheads. Showerheads equipped with on-off valves provide the opportunity to conserve more water than those without valves. Install low-flow aerators on all faucet fixtures.

9. Be aware of water efficient equipment

As you replace the equipment in your plant, be aware of how much water the new equipment will use. Equipment manufacturers have become more aware of the need for water conservation and often offer equipment that uses less water. Explore all of your options. You may find that you have a choice in your equipment purchases and water conservation should be a determining factor in the selection process.

10. Monitor your results

Each water bill includes your consumption history. It is possible for you to follow this history and get an immediate idea as to how well you are doing compared to any one of the past 14 billing periods. Use charts, graphs, and other records to keep track of your conservation progress and share it with employees.