

# ICI Water Audit Pilot Rebate Program

## Water Efficiency Audit

The General Services Administration (GSA) received almost \$22,000 in rebates from Austin Water to conduct comprehensive water efficiency audits of five federal office buildings in Austin. The audits were in response to an executive order issued by President Obama in 2009 setting forth several sustainability goals for federal facilities nationwide, including an overall 26% reduction in water use by 2020.



GSA offices

To be eligible for the rebate, GSA was required to fix any controllable leaks identified by the audit and make any necessary adjustments to water-using equipment so that the equipment is working efficiently and without waste. In addition, the audit included water saving recommendations, their cost, benefit, payback period, and applicable rebate opportunities.

The audited facilities included the Federal Courthouse, the Homer Thornberry Building, the J. J. Pickle Building, the U.S. Department of Veteran's Affairs Building, and the U.S. Treasury Building. Recommended measures included:

- Retrofit to high efficiency faucet aerators, showerheads, toilets and urinals
- Irrigation system repairs and upgrades
- Separate irrigation meters to better manage water use and eliminate wastewater charges
- Cooling tower water efficiency improvements
- Rainwater and AC condensate collection systems
- Reclaimed water use
- Native plant landscaping



Recommended measures in the 5 audits would result in total potential savings of 10.5 million gallons per year and total annual cost savings in utility bills of \$169,799 at 2014 rates. This excludes other savings such as reduced energy and chemical costs which would be a natural byproduct of the reduction in water usage. Total cost of the recommended measures was \$401,257 with an aggregate average payback period of 2.4 years, assuming savings through reduced water and sewer bills. These costs do not include any cost reductions as a result of rebates from Austin Water.

For more information please visit our web site, [www.WaterWiseAustin.org](http://www.WaterWiseAustin.org)

## General Services Administration

- Potential annual savings of 10.5 million gallons
- Potential annual water and wastewater cost savings of \$169,799
- Total potential investment cost of \$401,257
- Average payback period of 2.4 years
- Total audit cost \$31,500
- Total audit rebate amount \$22,000

*"The water and cost savings from these recommended measures will not only benefit the taxpayer, but will also demonstrate the commitment by the federal government to lead by example in protecting and conserving our water resources."*

*Wayne Hughes, GSA Program Manager*

### **Best Management Practice:**

Comprehensive water efficiency audit that identifies cost effective water saving measures and rebate opportunities.

## Case Study



Austin  
**WATER**  
Clearly Reliable