

## BUCKS FOR BUSINESS REBATE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **HOW MUCH IS THE REBATE?**

The rebate amount is \$0.50/1,000 gallons saved over the ten-year lifetime of the equipment or 50% of the cost of the equipment, whichever is less. The maximum rebate amount is \$100,000 per eligible project.

## WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS QUALIFY FOR THE BUCKS FOR BUSINESS REBATE?

Qualifying projects include water-saving equipment retrofits and upgrades in facilities such as office buildings, factories, health care facilities, schools, universities, hotels, and restaurants. Examples of eligible upgrade projects include:

- Reuse of high quality rinse water used in the high tech industry
- Capturing alternative water sources for on-site reuse for landscape irrigation, cooling tower water makeup, toilet flushing, and other approved non-potable uses. Sources include:
  - o Air conditioner condensate
  - Rainwater
  - Graywater
  - Foundation water drain
  - Other approved alternative water sources
- Cooling tower improvements to increase water efficiency or reduce potable water use
  - o Increasing cycles of concentration above the required five cycles
  - Installing water treatment or other systems to reduce makeup and blowdown water necessary when contaminants build up in the water, including
    - Corrosion, algae and scaling inhibitors such as water softeners, sulfuric acid, ozonation and biocides
    - Side stream filtration using rapid sand, cartridge, or cyclonic filters that help remove solids
  - Systems to replace/reduce cooling water use, including multi-split, variable refrigerant volume, and geo-thermal systems
- Measures to reduce laundry water use such as ozone treatment and water recycling/reuse systems
- Equipment to reduce water use by boilers in commercial/multi-family facilities, including
  - Condensate return systems
  - Automated conductivity controllers
  - Make-up and blowdown meters
  - Water quality treatment systems that treat corrosion and remove scaling
- Health care equipment including steam sterilizers, vacuum pumps, air compressors, pure water stills, and analytical equipment

## HOW DOES AUSTIN WATER DOCUMENT A PROJECT'S WATER SAVINGS?

Austin Water can calculate water savings several ways:

- Submetering or other water use measurements, such as a few months of cooling tower makeup water submeter readings taken before and after equipment installation
- Using project-specific water use measurements, such as from time of operation charts for a piece of equipment with quantified water savings per unit of time
- Using Environmental Protection Agency savings calculators or other industry-wide accepted studies