

WATER CONSERVATION

Austin Water

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# BUSINESSES

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Water Conservation



# COMMERCIAL PROGRAMS

## Getting Down to Business

Water conservation makes good business sense by saving you water, wastewater and energy costs. But there are many more benefits to saving water including:

- ◆ Extending the life of water using equipment
- ◆ Increasing competitiveness
- ◆ Enhancing public image and attracting new customers
- ◆ Improving property values
- ◆ Increasing employee awareness and participation

## Irrigation System Upgrade Rebate

Austin Water offers a rebate of up to **\$10,000** for a central computer irrigation controller system. Additional rebates are available for flow sensors, multi-stream nozzles, master valves and pressure regulation equipment.

## Rainwater Harvesting System Rebate

Rebates of **\$0.50** per gallon capacity for non-pressurized systems or **\$1.00** per gallon capacity for pressurized systems up to a maximum rebate of **\$5,000** are available.

## Water Audit Rebate

Receive up to **\$5,000** for an independent water audit of your facility to identify potential water and cost savings. To qualify, you must commit to fix any leaks and make any necessary equipment or system adjustments discovered by the audit.

## Bucks for Business Rebates

Austin Water offers rebates up to **\$100,000** for water saving equipment retrofits and upgrades in facilities such as office buildings, factories, health care facilities, schools, universities, hotels and restaurants. The rebate amount is based on **\$1.00/1000** gallons saved over the 10-year lifetime of the rebated equipment or 50% of the cost of the equipment, whichever is less. Examples of eligible upgrades include:

- ◆ Capturing on-site sources of water such as air conditioner condensate or foundation drain water to use for landscape irrigation or cooling water make-up
- ◆ Equipment and processes that reduce the amount of potable water used for cooling towers, including those that maximize cycles of concentration for cooling towers above five cycles
- ◆ Reuse of high quality rinse water used in the high tech industry
- ◆ Laundry water use reduction measures such as ozone treatment and water recycling and reuse systems

Some projects may also qualify for property or sales tax exemptions or other incentives offered by Austin Energy or Texas Gas Company.

## Reclaimed Water

Use of less expensive treated wastewater to meet non-potable water needs such as irrigation and cooling towers. In addition to Austin Water's growing reclaimed water network Austin now has three reclaimed bulk water filling stations, located in East Austin on Hergotz Lane, at Hornsby Bend Biosolids Management Facility and Walnut Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Information and application forms can be found on all our programs at [WaterWiseAustin.org](http://WaterWiseAustin.org) or call **512-974-2199**.

# WAYS BUSINESSES CAN SAVE WATER

## Detect and fix any leaks

The easiest and cheapest way to save water and money is to periodically check and fix leaks from pipes, fixtures, appliances and equipment.

## Install high efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances

These may include, toilets, urinals, kitchen and bathroom aerators, showerheads, clothes washers, dishwashers, ice machines, food steamers, pre-rinse spray valves, and medical lab equipment.

## Make sure your water line pressure is not above 65 psi

Pressure above 65 pounds per square inch in your water line may result in waste and damage to equipment and plumbing. Install a pressure reduction valve to lower water pressure and keep water efficiency high.

## Install native and drought tolerant plants

Replace water-thirsty turf with Bermuda or Buffalo grasses, which are more likely to survive future droughts, or with permeable hardscapes, mulching or non-irrigated beds.

## Install water saving equipment to cooling towers

Significant water savings can be achieved by reducing the amount of water used for cooling towers. City code requires all cooling towers to be registered with the Austin Water Cooling Tower Efficiency Program. This program was developed in help customers meet cooling tower efficiency stands and equipment requirements, as well as to save money on water and wastewater bills by identifying potential upgrades and available rebates. For more information on how to register see [Cooling Tower Efficiency Program](#)

## Perform periodic irrigation system evaluations and install a separate irrigation meter

Automatic irrigation systems need to be maintained and regularly checked to ensure they are on the proper settings to provide only the amount of water plants and lawns need. This includes checking that the controllers and timers are set to be consistent with current watering restrictions. Commercial and multifamily properties one acre and over are required to have biennial inspections of their systems. A separate meter for irrigation will also help better measure irrigation use and identify leaks and other water saving opportunities. Austin Water irrigation meters are only billed for water use and not wastewater.

## Install a rainwater and/or air conditioning condensate collection system

A blended rainwater and air conditioner condensate collection system can be used to meet non-potable water needs year-round. Condensate is available when the weather is hot and dry, and air conditioning units are running at their fullest. Stored rainwater supplements the supply when the weather turns cooler and air conditioning systems are not in use. *This project may be eligible for a Bucks for Business rebate.*

## Institute an employee water conservation awareness and education program

Get your customers and employees involved with your water conservation programs. It will reduce costs and attract customers who value conservation.

# AUSTIN IS IN CONSERVATION STAGE WATERING RESTRICTIONS\*

## Follow the watering restrictions schedule

Depending on drought conditions, Austin has several strategies that determine what watering restrictions are in place.

\*Check [WaterWiseAustin.org](http://WaterWiseAustin.org) or call Water Conservation at **512-974-2199** for the most current water restrictions.

### CONSERVATION STAGE

#### COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY



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**AUTOMATIC IRRIGATION**  
 Even Address: **Tuesday**  
 Odd Address: **Friday**
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**HOSE-END SPRINKLERS**  
 Even Address: **Tuesday**  
 Odd Address: **Friday**
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**HOURS**  
 Midnight - 10 AM, 7 PM - Midnight


 Tree Bubblers, Hand-Held Hose, Drip Irrigation:  
 Any Day/Any Time

