



Water Conservation

Water is one of our community's most precious resources and it plays an important role in the operations of most local businesses. Using water efficiently is important to businesses for both environmental and financial reasons. The Resource Venture is a partner in the Saving Water Partnership and provides free technical assistance to show businesses how to conserve water. We can help you take advantage of financial incentives (available through the regional Water Smart Technology Program) which cover up to 50% of the cost of installing or replacing inefficient fixtures and equipment. Businesses that have participated in the program over the past six years have experienced water and wastewater savings of approximately \$3.5 million each year.

Business Solutions

There are a wide variety of opportunities for businesses to reduce their water use and expense. The following solutions are among the most common.

- ❑ **Check for leaks.** If your business experiences a sudden, unexplained increase in water use, take the time to investigate obvious or suspected leaks.
- ❑ **Check air conditioners and refrigerators.** If your company's air conditioners or refrigerators use water-cooled condensers, investigate air-cooled equipment for possible efficiencies.
- ❑ **Install water-efficient toilets, urinals and faucets.** Replacing toilets that use 3.5 gallons or more per flush, and urinals that use 2 gallons or more per flush, can often produce substantial savings. Low-flow faucets are also a sound alternative to those that use 1 gallon or more per minute.

Union Manufacturing, a small metal fabricating plant, reduced its water use 80% by installing a recirculation system on a laser cutting tool.

- ❑ **Replace inefficient ice machines.** Air-cooled ice machines are much more cost-effective than models that are water-cooled.
- ❑ **Check cooling towers.** Cooling towers - and the ways that they regulate water use - represent real opportunities for improving water efficiency.
- ❑ **Reuse process water.** Water used in industrial and manufacturing processes should be reused as often as possible.
- ❑ **Check irrigation systems.** Install and maintain a water-efficient irrigation system.

Financial Incentives

Through the **Water Smart Technology Program**, businesses can receive financial assistance to help improve their water conservation performance. All types of cost-effective water efficiency projects will be considered for financial incentives and Resource Venture staff will help expedite your application. Here are just a few examples of such projects:

- Replacement toilets and urinals: from \$60 to \$120 for replacing a high-flow fixture with a more efficient one.
- Commercial ice machines: from \$200 to \$1,000 for replacing a water-cooled ice machine with an air-cooled machine.

www.resourceventure.org / (206) 389-7304

Financial Incentives (*continued*)

- Commercial irrigation systems: up to 50% of the cost of improving system components.
- Cooling, refrigeration, commercial laundry and industrial processes: up to 50% of the cost of projects to increase water-use efficiency.
- Commercial coin-op laundromats: \$250 for replacing each inefficient washing machine.

At Your Service

The Resource Venture provides *free* information, assistance and referrals to help Seattle businesses improve their environmental performance. We are a partnership of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce and Seattle Public Utilities.



Seattle
Public
Utilities

www.resourceventure.org
(206) 389-7304

www.resourceventure.org / (206) 389-7304