



FACT SHEET: WATER EFFICIENCY - PLANNING AND PROGRAMS



SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

Stanford's sustainable water use revolves around managing available water resources to meet university needs, while preserving our ecological systems and maintaining this vital resource for future generations. Stanford continues to improve water efficiency and conservation programs, develop new strategies to maximize use of surface runoff, preserve high quality treated domestic water for critical campus uses, and protect water-dependent habitat.

TOP INITIATIVES & RESULTS

Water Planning and Management

Stanford is one of 26 members of the Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency. In 2007, the university became the first school to join the California Urban Water Conservation Council and work with experts in innovative water technologies and processes. Stanford regularly collaborates with local water agencies to identify opportunities for efficiency and conservation measures designed to ensure reliable water supplies for the future.

The university has completed thousands of water efficiency retrofit projects since 2001, reducing average domestic use from 2.7 millions of gallons per day (mgd) in 2000–01 to 1.42 mgd in 2016-2017, despite campus growth. In 2009, Stanford Student Housing received the Silicon Valley Water Conservation Award for upgrading its entire irrigation system, resulting in a 44% decrease in irrigation water use.

Stanford continues to develop facilities for capturing stormwater runoff, which will be pumped into the non-potable irrigation water system for use in landscaping across campus.

Water Efficiency Program

Stanford's Water Efficiency Program is one of the most aggressive in the Bay Area. It encompasses 29 measures that, along with new projects, have decreased domestic water use by 45% since 2001. These measures include the following upgrades:

- Water-saving devices on 66 campus sterilizers
- All once-through cooling for equipment replaced with re-circulating systems
- Over 13,000 academic and student housing bathroom fixtures replaced with water-efficient ones
- Campus pre-rinse nozzles replaced with low-flow models
- 90% of campus irrigated with non-potable irrigation water
- A sustained program to test new water-efficient technologies
- Weather-based (smart) irrigation controllers used throughout most of campus

MORE INFORMATION

WATER EFFICIENCY

<https://suwater.stanford.edu/efficiency-overview>

CONTACTS

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