



WATER CONSERVATION IN THE WORKPLACE

How Much Water Do You Use At Work?

Have you ever stopped to think about how much water you use at work? Industries and public institutions account for over 25% of the water used in most major cities.

Much of the water used in industry, commercial buildings, educational institutions, recreational facilities and other workplace environments is used in gardens, manufacturing processes, washing down of floors and equipment, toilets and washrooms, air conditioning and cooling.

To reduce water consumption, a change in attitude is necessary. Conserving our water resources by using them efficiently is part of achieving more sustainable production.

It takes a considerable amount of energy to deliver and treat the water we use everyday. Efficient water use can help in the reduction of energy needed for treatment and disposal of wastewater. Also, by using water more efficiently, we can help preserve water supplies for future generations, save money, and protect the environment.

Where Does Our Water Come From?

Water is a valuable and precious resource. A lot of water is wasted because too many people give little thought as to where water comes from and where it goes after they have used it.

Less than 1% of the world's fresh water or about 0.007% of the entire world's water supply is available for human use (that's approximately one teaspoon of water out of a full bath tub). By saving water, you're creating a more efficient and sustainable workplace.

Here at Goddard, our water is supplied from Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) and we use an average of 300,000 gallons per day.

For more information on water conservation, visit the following sites:

www.NOAA.gov

www.earth911.org

<http://www.enviroliteracy.org>

www.watersense.com



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PUBLIC AWARENESS TIPS TO CONSERVE WATER IN OUR WORKPLACE

What has NASA-GSFC Done to Conserve Water?

Water conservation is a high priority at GSFC. Goddard has a goal to reduce water use by 16% from a 2007 baseline by 2015.

The Greenbelt Campus has realized significant water-use reduction (potable and industrial combined) in recent years through implementation of several water conservation projects.

- Installed two water wells to provide make-up water for the chiller plant,
- Installed automatic low-flow faucets in all major buildings,
- Installed low-flow toilets, urinals, and faucets in restrooms ,
- Used non-potable water to water flowers, and
- Ceased watering lawns.

What Can You Do to Conserve Water?

Report all significant water losses (broken pipes, open hydrants, misdirected sprinklers, abandoned or free-flowing wells, etc.) to 6x5555.

Other Tips on Conservation

- Conserve water by being an example in your offices and workstations.
- Turn off any unnecessary flows and equipment when not in use. Ensure water pressures and flows are set at minimum required settings.
- Water used in general cleaning can be as much as 10% of all water used in some work places. Devise measures to reduce the excessive use.
- Support efforts and programs to create a concern for water conservation among visitors to your workplace. Make sure your visitors understand the need for, and benefits of, water conservation.
- Water Efficiency Awards. Consider holding water efficiency awards to encourage staff to get involved. This is a good way to collect and develop water saving ideas.

(Recommendations from EPA's Guide to conserving water at work.)

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink."

"Rime of the Ancient Mariner,"
Samuel Coleridge



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