



Sustainable Practices

Water Conservation

USC

EH&S Fact Sheet
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ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH & SAFETY

University Park Campus
837 Downey Way, Stonier Hall 102B
Los Angeles, CA 90089-1143
Tel: 213-740-6448

Health Sciences Campus
1540 Alcazar St., CHP 148
Los Angeles, CA 90033-9005
Tel: 323-442-2200

<http://capsnet.usc.edu/ehs/>

Water Is Our Most Precious Resource

It is key to nature's survival. Burgeoning population centers, specialized manufacturing, and aggressive farming put increasing demands on freshwater supply and availability. With future abundance in question and droughts commonplace, efficient water usage and conservation is paramount. Not only is this a quintessential sustainable practice, it makes good economic sense as well.

Did You Know That

- At USC, each leaky faucet or plumbing joint not repaired could amount to a loss of 20 gallons per day, per leak. If most of the campus buildings and residence halls had one leaky faucet on every floor (including basements), this would translate to about 16,000 gallons per day. In one year, close to 6 million gallons would be lost.
- Reducing shower time by two minutes at University facilities can save up to 200 gallons per month per person (standard flow rate at 5 GPM; 10-minute usage per day for 20 days).
- Nationally, If everyone could manage to use just one less gallon of water per day, some 85 billion gallons per year would be saved.

(Various sources: Mono Lake Committee, Water Conservation Tips; www.monolake.org/socialwater/wctips.htm#topten ; "55 Facts, Figures & Follies of Water Conservation" originally published by the Denver Water Department, Denver, Colo.)

What You Can Do

- If you notice any water leaks on campus especially from faucets, water lines, showers, lawn- or fire sprinklers, or fire hydrants, notify FMS Customer Service at UPC - (213) 740-6833, HSC - (323) 224-7001, or online: www.usc.edu/fms/.
- In kitchen facilities, run dishwashers at full capacity. Washing dishes by hand will use up to 11 more gallons than a dishwasher.
- In residence halls, run washing machines at full capacity.
- Use pressure washers and steamers efficiently and effectively. NOTE: Replace the above with a dust broom if it will achieve the same result.

Where to Find More Information

Be Water Wise, www.bewaterwise.com
American Water Works Association, www.awwa.org
H2OUSE Water Saver Home, www.h2ouse.org

EH&S Fact Sheets are intended for facilitating team discussions in your department. Post the monthly topic on your departmental bulletin board.