HOW TO...

IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY

SUSTAINABILITY OPPORTUNITY

Stanford's award-winning water conservation program has reduced potable water use by 20% over the last decade—despite continued campus growth—through commitment, dedication, innovation and implementation of a comprehensive set of water saving measures. The new Stanford Energy System Innovations (SESI) energy project (scheduled to come online in Spring 2015) will further reduce campus potable water use by another 15%. These efforts combine with individual actions that each member of the campus community can take to help achieve maximum water efficiency.

One way that Stanford can make a difference at a building level is through the installation of low-flow aerators. While Stanford has made a concerted effort over the past decade to install water efficient fixtures, an equipment inventory in summer 2014 revealed that there are still 1,200 faucets that could be converted to utilize low-flow aerators. Help the Department of Sustainability and Energy Management (SEM) address these remaining water fixtures by making sure low-flow aerators are installed in your building's faucets.

HERE'S HOW:

1) Determine the number of faucet aerators to replace

Contact the Office of Sustainability for data on how many faucet aerators in your building or department could be upgraded to low-flow versions. Any aerator running at 2.0 gallons per minute (gpm) or above can be replaced with a 0.5 gpm aerator. One low-flow aerator can save thousands of gallons of water per year!

- If desired, Office of Sustainability staff/interns can also conduct an audit through the Cardinal Green Office Program to help you determine other sustainability opportunities for your building.

2) Receive low-flow aerators

- SEM can provide low-flow aerators at no cost. SEM staff may need to visit your space to determine the size of your aerators before installation.

3) Install low-flow aerators

- If an old aerator is installed, unscrew it by twisting it clockwise. This can be done by hand or with channel-lock pliers, vise-grips, or a small pipe wrench if the existing aerator is screwed on very tightly. It's possible that you will need a key to unlock the aerators (some of them are locked on to the faucet to prevent stealing).
- Make sure the rubber washer in the new aerator is inserted in the inside of the aerator. Screw the new aerator by hand counter-clockwise onto the faucet. Make sure it is screwed on evenly.

Nearly 1,200 faucets on campus are elligible for low-flow aerator retrofits.

HOW TO...

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- Run water to test the new aerator. If leaking occurs, try to tighten by hand. If a small leak persists, you may need to unscrew the aerator and screw it on again. You can use white plumber's tape to prevent leaks as well.
- SEM staff and interns can assist with installations!

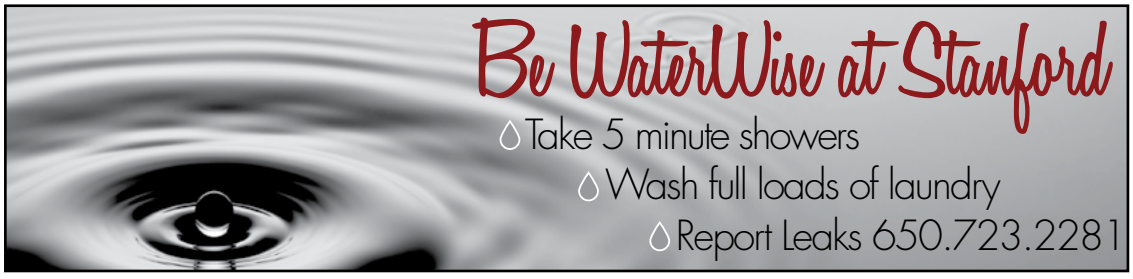
4) Go Further

With a new faucet aerator, you are on your way to conserving a great deal of water! But there is still more that can be done:

- Report leaks by calling 650-723-2281
- Turn off faucets when not in use
- Upgrade toilets to models with 1.6 gallons per flush or less or install dual flush systems
- If your building has sterilizers or autoclaves, contact SEM about installing water misers.
- Promote water conservation in your building by sending emails or posting signs with tips. Sample emails and signs are available through the Cardinal Green Office Program.
- If you have showers in your building, the Office of Sustainability can work with you to upgrade those as well. Any shower running at 2.5 gpm or above can be replaced with a 1.5 gpm showerhead.

Make sure shower heads run at 1.5 gpm or less.

Upgrade toilets to models that use 1.6 gallons per flush.



WaterWise bookmarks are available through the Cardinal Green Office Program.

MORE INFORMATION

CARDINAL GREEN OFFICE PROGRAM

http://sustainable.stanford.edu/cardinal-green/campaign/cardinal-green-office-program

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