

**COMPLETE AUSTIN WATER'S 3C BUSINESS CHALLENGE**

This simple, desk-top self-audit helps you identify water savings and rebate opportunities. Send the self-assessment form to Austin Water. Conservation staff will help you develop a plan to reduce water use and save on water bills.

**DETECT AND FIX ANY LEAKS**

A cheap and easy way to save water and money is to regularly check for and fix leaks from pipes, fixtures, appliances, and equipment.

**INSTALL HIGH EFFICIENCY PLUMBING FIXTURES AND APPLIANCES**

Depending on the business, these may include toilets, urinals, pre-rinse spray valves, commercial kitchen equipment, clothes washers, dishwashers, kitchen / bathroom aerators, and showerheads. Some Austin Water [rebates](#) and free fixture distribution programs may apply.

**MAKE SURE WATER LINE PRESSURE IS NOT ABOVE 65 POUNDS PER SQUARE INCH**

Water pressure above 65 psi may cause plumbing fixtures and irrigation systems to be less efficient. Installing a pressure reduction valve can lower water pressure and improve water efficiency.

**PERFORM PERIODIC IRRIGATION SYSTEM EVALUATIONS AND INSTALL A SEPARATE IRRIGATION METER**

Make sure the irrigation system is set to the [current watering schedule](#). Check system settings to ensure lawns and plants receive no more water than they need. Installing an irrigation meter can help to better measure water use and find leaks. You may also be able to get wastewater bill credit for sub-metered irrigation water that is not returned to Austin's wastewater system.

**INSTALL "HARDSCAPE" OR NATIVE AND DROUGHT TOLERANT PLANTS**

Replace water-thirsty turf with drought-tolerant Bermuda / Buffalo grasses, permeable hardscapes, rock gardens, mulch, or non-irrigated beds.

**INSTALL EQUIPMENT TO IMPROVE WATER EFFICIENCY OF COOLING TOWERS**

Achieve significant savings by reducing the amount water used for [cooling towers](#). This includes maximizing cycles of concentration to five or more cycles. You may be able to reduce monthly wastewater bills for the amount of evaporated water not returned to the wastewater system.

**INSTALL A RAINWATER AND/OR AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSATE COLLECTION SYSTEM**

A "blended" rainwater and a/c condensate collection system can meet indoor and outdoor non-potable water needs year-round. Use [a/c condensate](#) in hot and dry weather when air conditioning runs at its fullest. Switch to stored [rainwater](#) in cooler weather when air conditioning is not in use. Retrofit projects may be eligible for rebates.

**USE RECLAIMED WATER**

Use cheaper [reclaimed water](#) (*Austin Water treated wastewater*) for irrigation, cooling towers, and other non-potable uses.

**HAVE AN EMPLOYEE WATER CONSERVATION AWARENESS & EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Improving employee awareness about ways to save water and avoid waste can increase employee pride, reduce water costs, and attract customers who want to do business with a "green" company.