



RESOURCE CONSERVATION WATER

Last Updated:

Background and Overview:

According to the EPA, approximately six percent of total water use in commercial and institutional facilities in the U.S. takes place in educational facilities. The largest uses of water in educational facilities are restrooms, landscaping, heating and cooling, and cafeteria kitchens. This use puts pressures on local aquifers, streams, rivers, lakes, and aquatic wildlife. Therefore, conserving water and making efforts to protect water quality are key aspects of water management and reducing the institutional ecological footprint. Additionally, because the costs of water and wastewater services have risen significantly over the past 10 years (in order to offset the costs of replacing aging water supply systems), water has become an important piece of managing operations costs at schools.

Another water consideration is in regards to stormwater management. When not collected or redirected, stormwater runoff is a major cause of water pollution in urban areas. When rain falls on our roofs, streets, and parking lots, the water cannot soak into the ground and instead runs off into urban streams carrying trash, bacteria, heavy metals, and other urban pollutants. This degrades the quality of fresh water sources, and high flows of can cause erosion and flooding. Rerouting stormwater into storage systems, vegetation and permeable areas instead of the storm sewer helps improve the health of local water ecosystems.

Long-Term Goal: Conservation through efficiency and on-site reuse

	Current Status (CS) and Next Steps (NS)		Metrics
Strategy: Conservation and Tracking	Benchmark Assessment	Current Status:	GHG calculations and gallon usage
		NS:	
	Water Conservation Measures	Current Status:	ROI, gallons, and GHG calculations
		- NS: - NS:	
	Training and Ongoing Maintenance	Current Status:	% of staff and students trained annually
		NS:	
Strategy: Collection & Pollution Prevention	Collection	Current Status:	% collected and reused on-site
		NS:	
	Pollution Prevention	Current Status:	% of landscaping utilizing these methods
		NS:	

- **Responsible Parties:** Business services, Director of Facilities, Landscapers
- **Resources:** Water municipalities, [EPA - Water use in Facilities](#), [EPA Saving Water in Educational Institution](#)