

Water Conservation Fact Sheet

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Why Reduce Water Consumption

- The Earth operates as a “closed system” meaning that our water supply is finite.
- Of the world’s water supply, 97% is salt water in oceans. Of the freshwater supply, the majority is found in glaciers and ice caps. In short, only 1% of all water on Earth is usable to humans and even still, the majority of this supply is stored as ground water, water that comes from rain and snow that soaks into the ground.ⁱ
- Of the water available to humans, animals, and plants, only a small amount is used as drinking water. Creating electricity, growing crops, operating factories, running households and providing sanitation use the most.ⁱⁱ
- Water conservation means using water wisely and efficiently so that it is not wasted.ⁱⁱⁱ

Tips for Conserving Water on Campus

- Report leaks to Facilities (x8110).
- Only run full loads of laundry.
- Don’t run the faucet while brushing your teeth, washing your face, or shaving.
- Utilize dual-flush function on toilets (choose a half-flush for liquid waste).^{iv}
- Reduce your shower by a minute per week until you reach 5 minutes or less.^v

Water Use Facts

- Daily indoor per capita water use in the typical single family home is approximately 70 gallons, with the majority attributed to toilet usage, followed by washing machines and showers. Installing efficient water fixtures and regularly checking for leaks can reduce daily per capita water use by about 35% to about 45 gallons per day.^{vi}
- Running your washing machine and dishwasher only when full can save up to 1,000 gallons per month.^{vii}
- Dripping faucets can waste about 2,000 gallons of water each year. Leaky toilets can waste as much as 200 gallons each day.^{viii}
- Water consumed in the Boston area comes from the Quabbin or Wachusett reservoirs, located 65 and 35 miles from Boston, respectively. Together, they supply an average of 214 million gallons of water per day.^{ix}
- The EPA has developed Water Sense, a partnership program that functions much like Energy Star by labeling, rating and approving products that are water efficient. Online at www.epa.gov/watersense/.^x

On-Campus Promotion

- Tufts University has implemented several water efficiency measures in dorms, including dual-flush toilets, waterless urinals and low-flow faucets and showerheads. In order to promote these changes to students, they have created a **web site detailing the technical upgrades** and **providing tips**. They also **post signage** in public areas so that residents are aware of the water reduction features made available to them. Additionally, they’ve **published a Green Guide** which provides tips for students on water conservation, among other things.^{xi}
- UC Berkeley launched its **Campus Energy and Water Conservation Campaign**, which features unique posters with tips. These eye-catching materials were posted in library study carrels, department break rooms, copy rooms and dormitory bathrooms.^{xii}
- Harvard University arranged a **screening of the documentary *FLOW: For the Love of Water***, a film that details the global crisis of water quality and availability. Tap water was served and maps were posted showing the location of tap water fountains on campus.^{xiii}

ⁱ <http://ga.water.usgs.gov/edu/earthwherewater.html>

ⁱⁱ http://www.sahra.arizona.edu/programs/water_cons/why/why.htm

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.farnellfamily.com/cfarnell/why/default.html>

^{iv} <http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/hbs/water-conservation>

^v <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/resources/fsusers.htm>

^{vi} <http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Default.aspx?tabid=85>

^{vii} <http://www.wateruseitwisely.com/100-ways-to-conserve/index.php>

^{viii} <http://www.drinktap.org/consumerdnn/Home/WaterInformation/Conservation/ConservationatHome/tabid/83/Default.aspx>

^{ix} <http://www.mwra.com/04water/html/watsys.htm>

^x <http://epa.gov/watersense/>

^{xi} <http://www.tufts.edu/programs/sustainability/SGH/water.htm>

^{xii} http://www.facilities.berkeley.edu/greenbuildings/CACS_campaign/campaign.html

^{xiii} <http://www.greencampus.harvard.edu/node/247>