
Self-Assessment Checklist



What efforts has your facility already made in water efficiency? Several questions for facility managers are listed below to help gauge a facility's present water efficiency performance.

Top Management Commitment and Resources

- *Is water efficiency included in the company's environmental policy statement?*
- *Are water efficiency responsibilities delegated?*
- *Are quantitative goals established and tracked?*
- *How are water efficiency goals communicated to employees?*
- *What incentives and feedback loops exist for employee participation, suggestions and increased awareness?*
- *Has your facility taken advantage of available help and resources from your utilities, assistance programs, vendors or consultants?*

Water Efficiency Survey

- *Do you know the actual breakdown of your water uses: cooling and heating, domestic uses, process rinsing, cleaning activities, kitchens, laundries, landscaping, water treatment regeneration, evaporation, leaks and others?*
- *Do you know your life cycle water costs for supply water, wastewater treatment, sewer/discharge and heat and mechanical energy losses?*
- *Are you doing simple things such as leak inspections, eliminating unnecessary uses and using timers? Are these practices institutionalized?*

Identifying Opportunities - Target Areas for Water Reduction

DOMESTIC

- *Are code-conforming 1.6 gpf commodes, 0.5 to 1.0 gpm faucet aerators and low-flow 1.5 to 2.5 gpm showerheads in use?*

HEATING/COOLING

- *Has once-through cooling water used in air conditioners, air compressors, vacuum pumps, etc., been eliminated with the use of chillers, cooling towers or air-cooled equipment?*
 - *Has blow-down/bleed-off control on boilers and cooling towers been optimized?*
 - *Is condensate being reused?*
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PROCESS RINSING AND CLEANING

- *Have you considered improved rinsing techniques such as counter-current systems, sequential use from high quality to lower quality needs, conductivity flow controls, improved spray nozzles/pressure rinsing, fog rinsing or agitated rinsing?*
- *Is water turned off when not in use by flow timers, limit switches or manually?*
- *Is the life of an aqueous bath being maximized via filtration and maintenance control?*
- *Are “dry clean-up” practices used instead of hosing down, and is first-pass pre-cleaning conducted with squeegees, brushes or brooms?*

ON-SITE WATER REUSE

- *Is water quality matched with water quantity?*
- *Have reuse applications been examined for process water, landscaping irrigation, ornamental ponds, flush water and cooling towers?*

LANDSCAPING

- *Are low-flow sprinklers, trickle/drip irrigation, optimized watering schedules and water placement, preventive maintenance and xeriscaping techniques in place?*

KITCHENS

- *Are “electric eye” sensors for conveyer dishwashers installed?*
- *Have new water and energy efficient dishwashers been examined?*

Water Efficiency Action Plan

- *Have you performed a cost analysis on water efficiency opportunities?*
- *Do you have a prioritized implementation schedule?*
- *Are water users informed of the changes and communication channels open for feedback?*

Tracking and Communicating Results

- *Do you post monthly water usage rates to employees and management?*
- *Are your water efficiency achievements being recognized in case study articles, media coverage, mentoring to other businesses, business environmental exchange programs or in award programs?*

