

# FRESH WATER IS A FINITE RESOURCE THAT REQUIRES TENDER LOVING CARE

*This article is compiled from: The Long Beach Water Department Conservation Tips, [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org) & GreenBiz Essentials: Water Conservation, [www.greenbiz.com](http://www.greenbiz.com).*

Less than 3 percent of the water on Earth is fresh; much of that is unreachable in glaciers, icecaps, or deep in the earth. Depletion of these dwindling water supplies degrades the natural environment and can necessitate costly and habitat-destroying projects. Water conservation practices, such as efficient appliances and fixtures, behavioral changes, and changes in irrigation practices, can reduce water consumption by as much as a third. To get you started we've compiled a list of such practices:

## 1. Make a commitment to water conservation

For any program to be successful, the desire to conserve water must be present from the highest level of management on down. Companies that assign responsibility to an individual have proven better results than those that do not.

## 2. Learn about water conservation for businesses

As water use and allocation becomes a topic of growing concern around the world, companies will be required to pay greater scrutiny to the ways water is used within their operations. As a result, water-conserving businesses enjoy more than environmental benefits. They also enjoy the cost-saving efficiencies of a well-run operation.

## 3. Be aware of water efficient services

Many organizations and building management companies offer monthly, weekly and even daily car washing services to their employees and tenants. Using a wateless car wash service saves 50 to 100 gallons of water per wash.

## 4. Be aware of water efficient equipment

As you replace the equipment in your plant, be aware of how much water the new equipment will use. Equipment manufacturers are now designing equipment which require less water.

## 5. Check for leaks and repair as soon as possible

Leaks can be detected by having a periodic shutdown of all water-using facilities and reading the water meter at intervals of the shutdown (for information on how to read your meter, go to [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org)).

## 7. Install low flow devices

Use toilet tank displacement devices or install vacuum flush toilets. All showering facilities should be equipped with low-flow shower heads. Similar measures should be taken for all faucet fixtures. Use drip and other low-flow irrigation devices.

## 8. Monitor your results

Challenge your organization with conservation goals that will have a significant impact, but are also attainable. Every water bill contains details about your consumption. Use charts, graphs, and other records to keep track of your progress.

## 6. Involve your employees

Many companies have posted signs throughout their facilities educating their employees about water conservation, which helps to create awareness. You may also seek employee suggestions for water conservation ideas. Creating competition among employees (for instance, establishing which work shift can use the least amount of water) is another idea.

## 9. Grow native landscaping

Native plants adapted to the local climate and rainfall require less artificial watering and care. Minimize turf and use mulch around plants and trees to retain moisture.

## 10. Use only what's needed when Irrigating

Electronic controllers with precise individual timing, multiple irrigation zones, multiple cycles, and rain shut-off devices automate irrigation and efficiently manage water usage.

## 11. Use Xeriscape landscaping

Xeriscape landscaping combines planning and design, soil analysis, selection of suitable plants, practical turf areas, efficient irrigation, use of mulches, and appropriate maintenance in landscaping--an innovative, comprehensive approach to landscaping for water conservation and pollution prevention.

Visit these web sites to learn more about conserving our precious water supply:

Green Biz, Business Voice of the Green Economy  
[www.greenbiz.com/search/apachesolr\\_search/water conservation](http://www.greenbiz.com/search/apachesolr_search/water%20conservation)

Environmental Leader, Energy & Environmental News for Business  
[www.environmentalleader.com/category/water/](http://www.environmentalleader.com/category/water/)

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California  
[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com)

Water Efficiency Rebate Program for Commercial, Industrial, Institutional and Multi-Family Property, SOCAL Metoploitan Water Distict  
[www.mwdsaveabuck.com](http://www.mwdsaveabuck.com) (877) 728-2282