

Performance Contracting Incentive Program

This program is funded jointly by the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District and Pinellas County. Rebates of a maximum of \$20,000 per customer are being offered to commercial customers towards the cost of installing new equipment and processes that conserve water at existing facilities. This program is scheduled for the period May 2005 through May 2008 with the first water audits conducted in mid-2005. Water use at eligible properties will be monitored to ensure continued water savings for 1 year after implementation. It is anticipated that each participant will realize a savings of approximately 100,000 gallons of potable water per day. Eligibility requirements and application form are available at <http://www.pinellascounty.org/utilities/departments/altwater.htm>

Industrial/Commercial/Institutional (ICI) Audits

Pinellas County's Commercial Industrial Water Use Program (CIWUP) provides water use audits to the largest user group of non-residential water customers in order to educate these customers on the value of water conservation. The CIWUP program focuses on: 1) the largest ICI water users in the County, 2) customers who have multiple facilities that are similar in water use (ex. elementary schools, similar sized hotels, etc.), and 3) ICI customers requesting water audits. A water audit can help determine where excess water is being used and establish a plan of action for implementing water use efficiency measures. The audit includes an analysis of the water system, inventory of water usage history, installation of flow meters to determine the quantity of water being used in target areas such as toilets, dishwashers, laundry, boilers and cooling towers, and determining an approximate monetary savings comparative to the expense involved in becoming water use efficient. Accurate water measurements and water use patterns are analyzed and compared to normal and acceptable water use and best management practices. Sub-metering of significant water use features is strongly recommended to the ICI customers to determine and manage water use, and to provide early detection of water loss through leakage. The CIWUP promotes the following water conservation measures:

- Improved cooling tower efficiency
- Water efficient commercial ice machines
- Water efficient commercial pre-rinse spray nozzles
- Improved commercial dish washing machines
- Improved commercial laundry machines
- Use of waterless urinals and low flow toilets
- Using monitors and meters on automatic swimming pool refilling devices.
- Leak detection

Water audits have been conducted at motels and hotels, schools, and commercial facilities. As a result, many water conservation successes have been achieved. A resort and an adult care living facility both changed from using potable water in their cooling towers to using reclaimed water. At both of these facilities, reclaimed water is also used for irrigation. This use of reclaimed water in place of potable water has offset over 3 million gallons of potable water from December 2004 to September 30, 2005. In addition, the resort replaced four water-cooled ice machines with air-cooled ice machines. The air-cooled ice machines produce the same amount of ice, 12,000 to 20,000 pounds per day, as the water-cooled machines while saving approximately 4,200 gpd of potable water.

Pre-Rinse Spray Valve Replacement Project

Pinellas began a water conservation initiative in 2004 to replace high volume commercial pre-rinse spray valves with low volume units throughout the county. Through this exchange program, 100 low volume commercial pre-rinse spray valves were distributed to hotels, hospitals, restaurants, and adult living facilities during the first year. During fiscal year 2005/06, 250 high volume commercial pre-rinse spray valves were replaced throughout the Pinellas County School District. Beginning February 1, 2007, this program is receiving cooperative funding from the Pinellas-Anclote River Basin Board of the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The program goal is to exchange 2,000 pre-rinse spray valves over the next year.