

# Tri-County Green Business Program



## Water Conservation Activities

1. Understand your water bill and track your consumption monthly to look for indications of leaks, spikes, or other problems. Call your local water department if you need suggestions on how to improve the efficiency of your use
2. Install low flow aerators or flow reducing valves with flow rates not to exceed .5 gpm for hand washing sinks, 1.5 gpm for kitchen and lavatory sink faucets, and 1.5 gpm high efficiency showerheads
3. Install toilets with maximum flush volume of 1.6 gpf or less and replace all pre-1992 urinals that flush more than 1 gpf with high-efficiency models that flush .5 gallons or less
4. Post signs in kitchens and restrooms to encourage water conservation and to report leaks. Institute a no running water policy, train staff not to leave water running unnecessarily
5. Ask a professional landscaper or sprinkler installation specialist to evaluate your system for efficiency.
  - Repair all broken or defective sprinkler heads/ nozzles, lines and valves
  - Adjust sprinklers for proper coverage by optimizing spacing, avoid runoff onto paved surfaces
  - Adjust sprinkler times and/or duration according to seasons
  - Water during non-daylight hours (generally before 7am or after 9pm)
  - Install rain shut-off devices or moisture sensors that turn off the irrigation system during rain
6. Use xeriscape landscaping, planting draught resistant native plants  
[http://www.mtnativeplants.org/Native\\_Plant\\_Landscaping](http://www.mtnativeplants.org/Native_Plant_Landscaping)
7. Use rain barrels to collect rainwater for landscaping
8. Replace washing machines and dishwashers with Energy Star certified versions that use less water