Water Conservation

Working in partnership with the Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD), UCI has used recycled water for landscape irrigation since campus inception in the early 1960s. As a result, approximately 34% of potable water currently used on campus is recycled through IRWD and reused on the campus for irrigation. In addition, UCI, IRWD, and regional water agencies have worked cooperatively to fund multiple water conservation projects on campus resulting in significant annual water savings.

Results

UC Irvine Annual Water Consumption (Thousand Gallons per Capita)

- 230 Million Gallons Saved Annually: Recycled wastewater is used for landscape irrigation, which accounts for 30% of UCI's water use.
- 25 Million Gallons Saved Annually: Restroom fixtures in academic buildings were replaced with low-flow equipment.
- 5 Million Gallons Saved Annually: Twelve once-through cooling systems were adapted to capture cooling water.
- 45 Million Gallons Saved Annually: Plumbing retrofits: installation of low-flow fixtures in toilets and showerheads, and adding sink aerators.
- 3.5 Million Gallons Saved Annually: Turf replacement and irrigation upgrades installed across campus.

Implementing a Sustainable Water Conservation Program to Address Enduring Water Resource Efficiency

UCI’s Water Action Plan (WAP) provides a roadmap for achieving UCI’s long-term water resource goals including measures that respond to the persistent drought conditions affecting California. UCI has implemented a program of campuswide water conservation projects that have resulted in annual savings in potable water use of 30% (100 million gallons per year). Additional projects identified in the WAP identify an additional 112 million gallons per year in future potable water savings.

Current Initiatives

- Recycled Water
  - Recycling programs in place
- Plumbing Retrofits
  - Restroom fixtures replaced
- Laboratories
  - Cooling systems adapted
- Student Housing
  - Plumbing retrofits
- Landscape
  - Turf replacement

Local & Regional Partnerships

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To learn more visit www.sustainability.uci.edu