

Wednesday, December 5, 2007

Below are water conservation measures being employed by Durham businesses. If you have other ideas please submit your suggestions to the Chamber and we will add them to the list.

A large office employer provided their water saving measures to engage their employees to preserve our water, a precious resource. Facility personnel are actively working to complete the following measures:

1. Supply water to the urinals has been cut off. Custodians will go in every two hours to flush those with a water/antibacterial solution.
2. Supply water to all sinks has been restricted by approximately 50%.
3. Current 3 gallon flush valves are being changed to more efficient 1.6 gallon flush valves to match the newer flush valves.
4. Hand sanitizer units have been installed in all restrooms and we encourage everyone to use these instead of soap and water whenever possible.
5. Custodians will mop no more than every other day except for spot mopping.
6. Notices and alerts will be posted around the facilities.
7. use this drought as a challenge to management and staff to identify water conservation measures and encourage suggestions and staff agreement as to the importance of the effort.
8. Using bottled water to make coffee.

Several local restaurants have provided their solutions to conserve water.

1. No water is being served to customers unless requested.
2. Only disposable plates and eating utensils are being used by customers.
3. Disposal bowls are being used in the preparation of customer food.
4. Hand sanitizer is provided in restrooms and customers and employees are urged to use it instead of soap and water.

Industrial users have provided the following solutions:

1. Employees have been engaged to solicit their buy-in for water conservation measures and employee suggestions are being rewarded and viable ideas implemented.
2. Recycle chiller water to either cool equipment or recycle back to chillers
3. Adjust the amount of water going to chillers and increase the operating facility temperature to reduce the demand upon the use of chillers.
4. Current 3 gallon flush valves are being changed to more efficient 1.6 gallon flush valves to match the newer flush valves.
5. Hand sanitizer units have been installed in all restrooms and we encourage everyone to use these instead of soap and water whenever possible.
6. Outdoor watering for landscaping has been discontinued, as has water use to clean the exterior of the building, exterior equipment and vehicles.
7. Using other cleaning products other than soap and water to clean equipment and facilities.