



## Water (and money!) Saving Tips for Lafayette Businesses

1. **Toilets** - EBMUD customers can receive rebates for purchasing qualifying WaterSmart High-Efficiency Toilets (HET), which flush at 1.3 gallons per flush (gpf) or less. The rebate amount is \$150 (or up to total cost of each toilet, whichever is less) per qualifying HET from the current List of Qualifying Toilets. These toilets have been tested for water savings reliability and flush performance, thus using less water and removing waste effectively. For toilets using 3.5 gpf or more, install toilet devices such as displacement bags, toilet dams, or adjustable flappers to save water each time the toilet is flushed. An EBMUD "Toilet Tummy", when filled and inserted into your toilet tank, will reduce each flush by about 3 quarts. This is less expensive than installing new toilets, but does not save as much water.
2. **Aerators** - Low-flow aerators on your kitchen and bathroom faucets are easy to install and reduce water use and splashing. A flow rate of 2.2 gallons per minute is recommended for kitchen faucets and 1.5 gallons per minute for bathroom faucets. EBMUD provides its customers with free devices.
3. **Check for leaks** in toilets, faucets and hidden leaks. Leaks can be responsible for thousands of gallons of wasted water a month.
4. **Save Water in your Landscaping:** To learn practical tips on saving water, improving plant health and lowering water costs for your commercial site, contact EBMUD to schedule a free irrigation survey and request current program information. Or go to the EBMUD website and search for: WaterSmart Tips and scroll to bottom of page.
5. **Encourage** your staff to adopt water saving practices.
6. **Establish an ideas box** to encourage employees to suggest ways to save water.
7. **Include water conservation policies** and procedures in staff training programs.

For information on EBMUD rebate programs, free water audits, and eligible water saving products, contact [custsvc@ebmud.com](mailto:custsvc@ebmud.com) or call toll-free **1-866-40-EBMUD** (1-866-403-2683). Also visit: [www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com) for more water saving tips.



## Energy (and money!) Saving Tips for Lafayette Businesses

- 1. Step 1: Determine what equipment is draining your profits** Understand which equipment is using the most energy in your business by conducting an energy audit. In the process, you will discover a variety of cost-effective measures that suit your specific situation.
- 2. Step 2: Talk with your landlord (or tenant) about energy efficiency.** One-half of the small business owners in California rent or lease their space, and the majority of tenants pay the utility bills. As a tenant, you may have concerns about the cost-effectiveness of making energy efficiency investments in a building owned by another party. As a landlord, you may have the same concerns about upgrading in spaces where someone else is paying the utility bills. If tenants and landlords work together to improve the energy efficiency of a space – and perhaps even share the costs – landlords can improve the value of their property and renters can reduce their electricity bills.
- 3. Step 3: Make small changes today.**
  - Replace a standard, incandescent exit sign with an energy-efficient sign and save about \$20 in annual electricity costs.
  - Replace T12 lamps (1.5-inch diameter) and magnetic ballasts with T8 lamps (1-inch diameter) and electronic ballasts, and reduce energy use by 40%. (Note: New T5 lamps, which save even more, may be appropriate as well.)
  - Install humidity control systems in large walk-in refrigerators to reduce refrigerator temperatures by 2° to 4° F.
  - Purchase Energy Star labeled office equipment, such as computers, monitors, printers, etc. [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov)
  - Use energy-efficient lighting, such as compact fluorescent lights or LED's
  - Install energy efficient hv/ac's; dual pane windows, etc.

For more information on how to save energy and money in your specific kind of business: <http://www.fypower.org/com/bpg/>

For a free energy audit: <http://www.californiabestprogram.com>

## Waste Reduction (and money!) saving tips for Lafayette Businesses

### 1. Reduce

- Print and copy double-sided
- Try to purchase items with little or no packaging
- Reduce/Eliminate Junk Mail/Catalogues

### 2. Reuse

- Purchase office supplies made from 100% or high post-consumer recycled material, e.g., white multi-purpose paper. The cost is not much more than non-recycled products. <http://www.thegreenoffice.com/>
- Purchase Biodegradable tableware if you are a take-out food business. <http://www.worldcentric.org/about/contact.htm>
- For green products check out: Co-Op America's *National Green Pages* on-line and search for various types of green businesses who sell green products. [coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages](http://coopamerica.org/pubs/greenpages)

### 3. Recycle

- Much of what we use in business can be recycled, such as office paper, newspaper, mail, glass bottles, aluminum cans, plastic bottles and containers, post-its, etc.
- Contact **CCC Solid Waste Authority at 925-906-1801** to find out about business recycling programs if you do not already have one.
- If you would like more information on how to recycle call 925- 335-1290 to get the *Contra Costa Recycling & Reduction Guide*.
- Another useful website is [www.stopwaste.org](http://www.stopwaste.org). It serves Alameda County but is useful to Lafayette businesses as well.

### 4. Hazardous Waste

- Longs Drugs and Ace Hardware in Lafayette have a drop-off station for used batteries.
- Hauling Pros, Green Certified Business, take a bunch of stuff that all gets recycled or reused. **1-866-HAULERS**; [www.haulingpros.com](http://www.haulingpros.com); drop-off site is in Martinez.
- Take styrofoam peanuts to local UPS stores for reuse
- Donate unwanted office furniture, equipment, etc. to local charities or sell on craigslist.

