

WaterSaver Self-Service Laundry Program

Water Conservation Program



The Challenge

With nearly 14 percent of total domestic laundry washed in commercial, family-sized washing machines, self-service laundries have the potential to save their communities millions of gallons of water each year. Self-service laundries include stand-alone laundromats and units found in private multifamily housing and large institutions. The SAWS WaterSaver Self-Service Commercial Laundry program is focusing efforts on coin-operated laundries and on-premise facilities.

The Solution

According to the Alliance for Water Efficiency, although laundromats represent less than 20 percent of the self-service laundry market, they actually are used three to five times more frequently than other self-service locations. With 42 million in operation in the U.S., commercial laundry washing machines only are replaced at a rate of about 10 percent per year.

Many self-service laundries still use older, standard washing machines which use between 33 and 40 gallons of water per load. Newer, high performance or high efficiency models are available, yielding considerable water and energy savings.

Requirements

Companies using less water are eligible for custom rebates using our "Large-Scale" program formula. Savings must be verified from prior projects, pilot efforts or credible research. SAWS pays \$400 per acre-foot of water for 10 years of savings or 50 percent of the cost (the lesser amount).

Equipment and projects must remain in use for 10 years or the life of the equipment, whichever is less. The project should be in an area that can be sub-metered or clearly shown to reduce water consumption. Water use data must be collected before and after the retrofit

Case Study: Coinmach

For more than 50 years, Coinmach Corp. has focused on developing and delivering innovative laundry solutions to the multifamily industry. In San Antonio, Coinmach does business as Kwik Wash, which became San Antonio Water System's first water conservation partner in coin-operated laundry facilities. Kwik Wash participated in a pilot program to replace 85 top-load machines to front-loading, high-efficient commercial ones.

With an annual savings of 3,267,230 gallons of water, washers went from using 33.5 gallons of water per load to 12.9 gallons, equating to 20.6 gallons of water saved per load and 45 percent more energy-efficient. After these results, Coinmach Corp. committed to replacing additional coin-operated washing machines in the San Antonio area.



Project Summary

- 205 total high-efficiency, coin-operated and front-loading washing machines installed.
- Existing equipment used 33.5 gallons per load
- New equipment uses 12.9 gallons per load
- 20.6 gallons saved per load
- 38,438 gallons saved per machine per year
- Total project investment for Coinmach - \$203,349.75
- SAWS Large-Scale rebate - \$96,728.75
- Estimated annual water savings - 7,879,790 gallons or 24.2 acre-feet
- Estimated annual water and sewer savings - \$38,610.97
- Coinmach's net return on investment - 2.7 years