

Commercial

# WaterSaver Hotel Program

Water Conservation Program



## The Challenge

San Antonio hosts more than 21 million leisure and business visitors yearly. The overall impact of the hospitality industry on the local economy is about \$9 billion a year. In the past 10 years, the hospitality industry has grown 85 percent. In addition to tourism, San Antonio aggressively seeks to host more conventions, as well as sport events such as the NCAA basketball finals and the Alamo Bowl.

As more hotels continue to be developed in San Antonio than any other city in the nation, wise water use may not likely be a top concern to our visitors. But it is nonetheless a sizeable arena of untapped conservation potential.

## The Solution

The WaterSaver Hotel program is a comprehensive approach to water conservation in this critical commercial sector.

In working with hotel management, it is important to emphasize the long-term benefits the hotel will realize and, in turn, the benefit of water savings for the San Antonio community. Through the WaterSaver Hotel program, SAWS provides rebates and fixtures to participating hotels.

### Requirements and assistance:

- Restrooms must be equipped with high-efficiency toilets, showerheads and aerators. These items and installation are available from SAWS.
- Kitchens must use certain spray valves and dishwashing technology available through SAWS.
- Hotels must implement a voluntary "Linen/Towel Exchange" program and run their laundries efficiently. Rebates may be available for new laundry technologies.
- Hotels must implement water-efficient landscapes with appropriate plantings and irrigation. Assistance in the form of rebates and consultation from SAWS is available.

## Case Study: Hilton Palacio del Rio

A study by the American Hotel & Lodging Association found that the average hotel consumes about 209 gallons of water per occupied hotel room each day—almost as much as the 243 gallons consumed by the typical U.S. household.

With rising water and sewer rates, as well as increasing prices of the energy required to heat water, there is a large and growing opportunity for hoteliers to reduce their operating costs and environmental impact through a resource-efficiency program that includes a focus on water management.

Built in 1968 as the first modern luxury hotel along San Antonio's famed River Walk, the Hilton Palacio del Rio is now the first Water-Saver Hotel in San Antonio.

Through a partnership with SAWS, the Hilton Palacio del Rio has undertaken a series of modifications aimed at reducing its overall water consumption.

## Project Summary

### Retrofits

- 525 High-efficiency toilets
- 616 Faucets
- 479 Showerheads
- 22 Water-cooled ice machines

### Annual water savings

- 26,184,000 gallons or 80 acre-feet per year
- 107 gallons per occupied hotel room per day (102 gallons below the industry average)

### Total Project Cost

- SAWS costs: \$167,320.50
- Hotel costs: minimal

### Total annual hotel energy and water savings

- \$160,000 per year