

Auraria Campus cuts water use with new fixtures

Denver Water is supplying Auraria Campus with hundreds of new water-efficient fixtures to help the higher education center save about 30 acre-feet of water each year – roughly the amount used by 75 households annually.

Auraria Campus is home to Community College of Denver, Metropolitan State College of Denver and the University of Colorado at Denver. Most of the toilets on the downtown Denver campus used at least 3.5 gallons per flush or more, said Donna Pacetti, Denver Water’s local government water conservation coordinator, who is in charge of the project.

In the next year, plumbers will install 350 toilets, 175 urinals and 250 faucets.



Michael Cushman installs a high-efficiency toilet at the Auraria Campus.

Plumb Green, Save Blue

In 2009, Denver Water partnered with GreenPlumbers USA to give high water users a chance to lower their water bills. In the Plumb Green, Save Blue pilot project, Denver Water targeted homes that were using between 120,000 gallons and 400,000 gallons of water indoors each year – more than 30 percent higher than water-efficient homes.



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Denver Water offered to buy each participating home a new high-efficiency toilet, a showerhead and aerators for every faucet in the house. Then Denver Water paid plumbers who are accredited by GreenPlumbers USA, a national organization that teaches plumbers about water efficiency, to install the fixtures and look for water waste at each house. Each household was responsible for \$49 of the cost.

So far, the 120 homes that participated are seeing a 50 percent reduction in their water costs. “We were enormously surprised,” said Stacy Smith, a Denver Water conservation specialist in charge of the program. “Those are huge savings.”



Denver Water reused old billboards for its 2010 Use Only What You Need campaign to help remind customers that waste is out.