Water Conservation at SCU: On-Campus Fixture Audit

By Dylan O'Reilly & Gabriella Carne

California, including Santa Clara and the Bay Area, is currently in the midst of one of the worst droughts on record. In order to remediate the effects of the drought and to preserve water in case of future droughts, it is imperative that SCU do all it can to limit its potable water usage.



Objectives

"Continue to reduce potable water usage in campus buildings"

Gather a better understanding on Santa Clara's oncampus water usage

Uncover areas of fixture weaknesses on campus

Propose suggestions to Facilities to better improve on-campus water efficiency



Gathered assumed gallons per minute (GPM) data from initial sites

Gathered assumed gallons per minute (GPM) data from initial sites Gathered actual GPM data from initial sites

Gathered assumed gallons per minute (GPM) data from initial sites



Gathered assumed gallons per minute (GPM) data from initial sites

Gathered actual GPM data from initial sites

Conducted "mini audits" on additional on-campus buildings Calculated found GPM





Target areas of weakness and establish recommendations for future SLURP projects & Facilities action

Results

Kenna Aerator Measurements

5.9% 5.9% 64.7%

San Filipo Aerator Measurements



Results



What we found: 88% of aerators work at or below marked GPM.

Final Calculations

<u>Assumptions</u>

- **□** Each person washes their hands at least twice a day
- **□** Each person washes their hands for approximately 20 seconds
- □ Approximately 34% of aerators are 1.5, 34% are 2.2, and 27% are 2.0 based on full scale auditing of certain academic and residential buildings

Final Findings

<u>How Much Can We Save?</u> 5,800 gallons/day 1.5 million gallons/year

That's 2% of SCU's Potable Water Use!

What else can we do?

Recommendations

- Future SLURP projects looking at the following:
 - Resident Hall shower fixtures and toilets
 - The behavior behind a SCU student's water consumption
- Facilities:
 - Target areas of fixture weakness by installing 1.0 GPM fixtures
 - Where to focus:
 - Sanfilippo, Kenna, Alumni Science
 - Other residence halls and personal sinks in rooms
 - Gather student support for installation with campus campaigning

Acknowledgements

We would like to personally thank our professors Stephanie Hughes and Hari Mix for their encouragement and collaboration.

Thank you to Lindsey Kalkbrenner, Cara Uy, and Blair Libby at the Sustainability Center for the inspiration for our project.

Finally, thank you to Andy Hernandez of Facilities for being a source of information and support for the past two quarters.