

Get "Green" Credit Offsets

Retrofit fewer toilets by installing high-efficiency water fixtures and appliances in your new commercial development. By going beyond the norm with toilets, showerheads, faucet aerators, washing machines and weather-based controllers in your new development, you can lower your water demand offset (WDO) requirement. The WDO Commercial Green Credit Program not only provides water savings, but potential cost savings for developers who participate in the program. Applicants for new water service who plan to build a commercial development using high-efficiency water fixtures and appliances that exceed basic conservation requirements can use "green credits" to lower their Water Demand Offset requirement.

How much "Green Credit" can my development obtain?

Although the amount of green credits achieved varies case-by-case, a typical business installing several types of available high efficiency water devices (e.g., faucet aerators, and a weather-based irrigation clock) can save 15% of their projected water use. Thus, their WDO requirement would reduce proportionally. This translates to retrofitting less toilets in existing homes.

For a description of the Water Demand Offset (WDO) policy, see our Water Demand Offset Policy Fact Sheet. These policies and programs were adopted as an interim measure to allow continued development in the District to minimize further pumping of limited groundwater supplies.

What qualifies for "Green Credit"?

Fixtures that are more water-use efficient than required by law.

For example:

- ◆ **Showerheads** with a 2.0 gallons or less per minute (gpm) flow versus 2.5 gpm
- ◆ **Lavatory faucets** with a 1.5 gpm or less flow versus 2.5 gpm
- ◆ **Washing machines** that use on average 18 gallons per load or less versus 27 gallons per load
- ◆ **Weather-based irrigation controllers (WBIC)** recorded as having a 20% savings over conventional irrigation controllers
- ◆ **Other** – if you can identify other devices that would save water (e.g., high efficiency ice machine), then please contact the District to indicate if "green credit" might be available for that device.

All of these water-efficient fixtures are available locally. District staff is glad to provide vendor names. No partial installation of water-efficient fixtures (e.g., you can't just install half water-efficient showerheads and the rest regular showerheads).

Going green saves you green?

What's the real story?

Here's a real life example of money savings by taking advantage of the "green credits" option.

A takeout coffee shop was proposed to be built. Based on its projected water-consumption, the District required the developer to offset 0.680 acre-feet as part of the Water Demand Offset (WDO) program. The developer decided to take advantage of the Commercial Green Program and install high-efficient toilets (1.2 gallons per flush (gpf) which are now required), faucet aerators (limit flow from 2.5 gpm to 1.5 gpm), and a weather-based irrigation timer (20% savings on outdoor water use). By incorporating these devices into the proposed development, the District's required offset amount was lowered 26% to 0.543 acre-feet. This equates to the developer having to retrofit approximately 27 less residential toilets. The cost to the developer to retrofit 27 toilets at the District's limit of \$460 per retrofit is \$12,000 (27 toilets x \$460/toilet = \$12,000). It cost the developer much less than \$12,000 to upgrade to high efficiency water fixtures.

The net result is that the developer saved money by installing high-efficiency fixtures and the coffee shop will have lower water and sewer bills due to less water consumption. Not to mention the developer feels good about "stepping up to the plate" and doing their part for the environment and the local water situation.

How to Proceed?

Ready to take the plunge? Follow these steps:

- ◆ **Step 1** - Submit a "Will Serve" application.
- ◆ **Step 2** - Submit an *Application for Commercial Development to Receive "Green Credit"* (available on District web site or can obtain at the District office). The District's Conservation staff is also available for advice and help.
- ◆ **Step 3** - After you submit your application indicating what high-efficiency devices you propose to install, then District staff will calculate your projected water savings and your revised lower Water Demand Offset requirement.
- ◆ **Step 4** - You will be notified of your projected water savings by "going green" and your revised lower Water Demand Offset requirement.
- ◆ **Step 5** - "Will Serve" application approval (or denial)
- ◆ **Step 6** - After installation of the proposed water efficient devices, staff will perform a site inspection to verify compliance.

Questions? feel free to contact the District's Conservation/ Customer Service Field Manager (831 475-8501 ext. 144).

Fill out the form on back to apply for "Green Credits"



Application to receive residential Commercial "Green Credit"

Property owner's name <small>(Customer to receive rebate)</small>	Last name or company name	First name (if applicable)
Property location	Street and City	Assessor's Parcel Number (APN)
Contact person	First and last name	Title (if applicable) <i>example: project manager</i>
Contact mailing address	Street address, apartment no., P.O. box	City Zip Code
Telephone number	Best daytime phone number	
Email address (optional)		

Proposed Water Efficient Fixtures to be Installed

Check appropriate credit category for your development
 Questions? Call 475-8501 ext. 144 for more information

<i>Green Fixture Types*</i>	<i>Quantity to be installed</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Lavatory faucet aerators	
<input type="checkbox"/> Showerheads	
<input type="checkbox"/> Weather based irrigation controller	
<input type="checkbox"/> Clothes washers	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other** _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other** _____	

*The *Water Demand Offset Commercial "Green" Credit Fact Sheet* shows the water-usage rates that defines a "green" water fixture that qualifies for the program.

** "Green" fixtures not on the above list, but proposed by the developer, may be considered by the District for credit.

DISTRICT USE

	WDO "Total offset required" without Green credit	<small>(from "New Applicant Water Demand Offset Credit Form")</small>
<small>Acre-ft</small>		
	Percent water savings from "going green" (staff calculates)	
X	Green Credit "WDO % factor" = 100% - percent water savings	<small>(Staff calculates)</small>
	=WDO total offset required with Green Credit	
<small>Acre-ft</small>		

VERIFICATION (District use only)

Approved to "Go Green" (preliminary before building) Denied *(If denied, indicate reason)*

By: _____ Date _____

Notes: _____

Inspection/ approval after building finished for appropriate green category.

Inspected by _____ Date _____

Notes: _____