



# Success Story – Alameda County Environmental Health Dept.

## Alameda County Environmental Health Department

1131 Harbor Bay Parkway, Alameda  
<http://www.acgov.org/aceh>

The Alameda County Environmental Health Department (ACEH) works to ensure the health, safety, and well-being of the public through promotion of environmental quality. In addition to enforcement, ACEH promotes awareness of environmental protection, environmental justice, and pollution prevention.

Their offices house the Alameda County Green Business Program whose staff at ACEH helped EBMUD create and promote WaterSmart Certification for Bay Area businesses.

To realize water savings at their facility, they recently replaced older toilets with high efficiency models using EBMUD’s rebate program. In addition, they installed low-flow aerators on all bathroom and kitchen faucets. All showerheads are low-flow models.

Their outside water use decreased markedly in 2012 when they removed turfgrass, planted drought tolerant landscaping, and mulched extensively to conserve soil moisture. Trees at the site are watered with drip irrigation. High-efficiency sprinklers water a small area of lawn.



Alameda County Environmental Health Department contributes to good environmental health by using less resources.

Approximately 105 people work at the facility. The amount of daily water use for an office building can vary, but studies show an average of 8-12 gallons of water per day (gpd) per employee. This includes moderate hand washing, flushing, and office cleaning. Average daily water use for ACEH would normally come to about 1,050 gallons per day. After implementing water savings measures, ACEH offices showed an average indoor water use of just 537 gallons per day in 2012—a laudable achievement.

Alameda County Environmental Health Department exemplifies good water management. Their example demonstrates that using less water and energy is an achievable goal that helps preserve our community’s vital resources. EBMUD congratulates them on their WaterSmart Certification.

WaterSmart — good for business, good for the environment.

EBMUD recognizes these businesses and customers for their water conserving efforts. However EBMUD makes no representation regarding these businesses or that similar water savings will be achieved at other sites.

### Water savings snapshot

- Current consumption: 537 gallons per day (indoors)
- Gallons per person: 5 gallons per day
- Combined potential annual savings: 578,000 gallons

