



Winner: **San Jose State University**

Award Category: **Organization**

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### **Why San Jose State University was chosen for this Award**

For more than a decade, San Jose State University (SJSU) has been a leader in water conservation. An early adopter of recycled water for landscape irrigation, indoor plumbing and industrial cooling, the University is on track to reduce its potable water use by more than 45%, from 170 million gallons per year in 2001 to 91 million gallons per year in 2011.

Since 2000, SJSU has worked closely with the City of San Jose to use recycled water supplied by South Bay Water Recycling to cool its central plant and irrigate athletic fields. This program has resulted in the conservation of 40 million gallons of potable water annually, and in the process the University has saved more than \$100,000 per year in avoided water and chemical costs.

On March 1, 2011 the University celebrated its “first flush” at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, where 87 toilets and 30 urinals began using recycled water. This application alone is projected to offset five million gallons of potable water per year. The University also is retrofitting the irrigation of its entire 88-acre main campus, and by September 2011 recycled water will be applied to an additional 20 acres of turf and landscaping, conserving 39 million gallons of potable water per year.

Future plans include using recycled water for indoor use at the new Student Union building and for boiler feed at the Central Plant. Together, these projects should reduce potable water use by an additional 25-30 million gallons per year.

Finally, SJSU offers more than a dozen courses and four undergraduate majors related to various aspects of water conservation, ranging from state and national water policy to designing green homes. The campus has organized four public and campus community workshops on water conservation and the urban water cycle over the past two years.