



## BUCKS FOR BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL / COMMERCIAL / INSTITUTIONAL REBATE

Austin Water's **Bucks for Business** rebate program is a custom, performance-based rebate that offers up to \$100,000 to Industrial, Commercial and Institutional customers to help with costs for installing water-efficient equipment, process upgrades, or alternative water systems that use reclaimed treated municipal wastewater or alternative onsite water to meet non-potable water demands.

### WATER SAVINGS

- Water-efficient equipment and process upgrades may reduce facility-operating costs and help lower energy, wastewater, and pretreatment costs.
- Alternative water systems may reduce and offset potable water helping to reduce water utility bills.

### REBATE AMOUNT

- **\$100,000 maximum rebate** per eligible project (*materials only, tax & labor not included*)
  - o \$1.00 for every 1,000 gallons saved annually over a ten-year lifetime of the rebated equipment or 50% of the cost, whichever is less, up to \$100,000
- Projects may also be eligible for [Austin Energy](#) and [Texas Gas Service](#) rebates

### ELIGIBILITY

- **Applicant:**
  - o Must be an Austin Water Industrial, Commercial, or Institutional (ICI) customer
  - o Must submit the application to Austin Water for pre-approval before buying, leasing, or installing any equipment
  - o Applications must include sufficient documentation to allow Austin Water to verify the cost and water savings of the project.
    - Local, state, or nationally accepted studies and savings calculations including, but not limited to, US EPA WaterSense and EnergyStar, US DOE Federal Energy Management Program, American Water Works Association, Alliance for Water Efficiency, Texas Water Development Board, and Austin Water may also be considered.
  - o May submit more than one application at a time for a facility if the projects are different
  - o Must be in compliance with current City of Austin [water restrictions](#), water efficiency standards and equipment requirements, and [Commercial Facility Irrigation Assessment Program](#) requirements at the property
  - o Agrees to any needed pre- and post-installation inspections by Austin Water
  - o Is responsible for meeting federal, state, and city codes, and regulatory and permit requirements
  - o For systems and equipment that will be installed for new development where the estimated water savings or potable water demand offsets cannot be verified and documented during the time of application processing, the applicant will be required to report water savings resulting from the project to Austin Water annually for ten years, and to provide information summarizing the project at the end of the ten year period

– **Water-Efficient Upgrades:**

- o Must have documentable water savings
- o Projects should be located in an area where water use can be sub-metered or otherwise measured, or where savings can be calculated based on some measured parameter
- o Eligible equipment must exceed any city code efficiency requirements
- o Rebates are based on water savings above what is required by city code
- o Labor, installation, consulting, operation and maintenance costs are not eligible
- o For kitchen upgrade projects, use the **Commercial Kitchen Rebate** application
- o Upgrades must remain in use for at least ten years after installation or be replaced with an equipment/process that saves as much or more water
  - Replacement equipment/process must remain in use for the remaining balance of the ten-year period or the applicant must refund a prorated amount of the rebate based on the actual time the equipment was in use

**CHECKLIST**

- Meet all eligibility requirements on pages 1 and 2
- Submit application for pre-approval **before you buy, lease or install any equipment** and include:
  - A detailed description/conceptual design of the project, including proof of waters savings and a project timeline
  - A complete list of equipment with material costs and expected equipment life
  - A completed water balance using an Austin Water approved calculator for alternative water systems that identifies the source and corresponding estimated amount of alternative water that will be used to meet the potential water demands of the project
  - Completed **IRS Form W-9**
  - Send application materials to:  
**Mail:** Austin Water Conservation, PO Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767  
**Email:** watercon@austintexas.gov  
**Fax:** 512-974-3504
- Austin Water staff will contact you to schedule a pre-installation visit to review the proposal
- Wait to receive a letter of intent from Austin Water after the pre-installation visit is complete
- Buy materials and complete the project **within the installation deadline** in the letter of intent
- Submit itemized **paid-in-full** receipts with vendor contact and payment information to Austin Water.
  - If the equipment is leased, a fully executed lease agreement with a minimum five-year term including renewal options, must be submitted for the application to be complete. Subsequent lease renewals and extensions covering the remaining, initial ten year period must also be submitted no later than thirty days from execution. Charges for parts must be separated from labor costs
- Complete a post-installation inspection by Austin Water to verify installation and operation.

## **BUCKS FOR BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REBATE**

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- Wait 6 to 8 weeks for your Austin Water rebate check (rebates over \$61,000 require city council approval and may need additional processing time)
- Report potable water savings resulting from the project to Austin Water annually for ten years and provide information summarizing the project at the end of the ten year period.
  - The annual reports must be on a form provided by Austin Water and must be submitted to Austin Water by March 1<sup>st</sup> of each year
  - The annual report shall include the potable water savings for the previous calendar year and progress toward meeting potable water demand offset goals.
  - Failure to timely submit fully completed annual reports will result in disqualifying the applicant from receiving any additional incentives, monetary or non-monetary, from Austin Water.

### **RESOURCES**

[Bucks for Business Frequently Asked Questions](#)

[Alternative Water Sources](#)

[Texas Water Development Financial Assistance](#)

[State Energy Conservation Office Loan Star Program](#)

[PACE](#)

[Texas Sales Tax Exemption](#)

- [Sales and Use Tax Bulletin 94-123 Water and Wastewater Systems](#)

[Application for Water Conservation Initiatives Property Tax Exemption](#)

- Form 50-270 under “Exemption Forms”

**BUCKS FOR BUSINESS INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & INSTITUTIONAL REBATE APPLICATION****APPLICANT INFORMATION**Austin Water Account Number: *(leave blank if unavailable)* \_\_\_\_\_Name of Applicant:  
*(account holder or property owner)* \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Installation Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:  
*(if different from above)* \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**PROPERTY INFORMATION**

Brief Project Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Completion Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Estimated Cost of Retrofit Equipment: \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Equipment Life (years): \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Water Savings (*gallons a day*): \_\_\_\_\_ Is Project a New Development?  Yes  NoIs Project In An Area That Can Be Submetered?  Yes  No**REBATE AGREEMENT**

I certify that all statements and representations contained in this application are true, correct and complete. I have read and understand the rebate eligibility. I have completed each of the required items on the rebate checklist and submitted all required items. I understand that incomplete applications will not be processed. Austin Water reserves the right to cancel or modify the program without notice. Rebates are subject to funding availability.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

WaterWiseAustin.org | watercon@austintexas.gov | 512-974-2199

**CITY OF AUSTIN USE ONLY:**

Pre-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass/ Fail

Post-Inspection Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Inspected By: \_\_\_\_\_ Pass/ Fail

Rebate Amount: \_\_\_\_\_ Approved By: \_\_\_\_\_ Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_