“Fix a Leak Week” is the perfect time to highlight the importance of submetering large water using fixtures and features. While the sight of a dry fountain in efforts to save water on campus has become the usual, Stanford Utilities staff are continuously working to make sure that water is not being wasted through leaks that are not “visible.”

While fountains can be visually appealing and relaxing to study by, they also can be secret water thieves. Even though water is recirculated, there is still some water lost due to evaporation. Because of this, most fountains on campus are equipped with an automatic refill valve. While this is great for convenience, it is near impossible to tell if a fountain begins to loose and refill water more frequently than normal.

Solution: Stanford Utilities staff closely monitors the amount of water that the fountains are using, even though they have been turned off. How is this possible? By having 14 individually metered campus fountains, of course! So now Utilities Staff are able to tell if fountains were leaking or using water while shut off.

The most notable fountain leak (at almost 3,400 gal/day, eek!) occurred in 2013 at Terman fountain. The leak was found and repaired by the Plumbing Shop Staff.

Please report any leaks to Stanford’s LBRE Operations Center 723-2281.