The Celebrating Sustainability Fair kicked-off Stanford’s Knowledge to Action: A Day of Events in Celebration of Earth Day, bringing together students, staff and faculty from throughout all parts of campus to learn about and engage with the University’s various sustainability partners. The Water Planning & Stewardship (WP&S) team hosted two tables. One table focused on environmental and water stewardship and the other focused on efficiency and conservation.

The WP&S table highlighted their stewardship and conservation goals and achievements by displaying many facts sheets, greater watershed maps, and highlighting projects. The team members also shared indoor and outdoor water-saving tips, advice on maintaining a lawn during a drought, background information on the San Francisquito Creek Watershed and the Hetch Hetchy Water System, and an interactive game. This year’s game featured a display board where the user could guess how much water each campus project saved and lift the flaps to find out the answers. Visitors were encouraged to sign-up to participate in one of the WP&S’s upcoming Earth Day Service projects by volunteering at the Arizona Garden, the Water Wise Garden, or the Foothills. 16 people signed-up to volunteer!

The four projects visitors learned about were water misers on autoclaves in Gilbert Hall, weather-based controllers for landscape irrigation at the School of Medicine, R&DE Irrigation Equipment Upgrade, and the Medical School Office Building’s replacement of existing restroom fixtures.

How Much Water Have We Saved?

• Gilbert Hall saved over 2.5 million gallons, reducing its water use by over 70%!
  • These results occurred in the first year after new water misers on autoclaves (equipment used to sterilize lab equipment) were installed.
  • RD&E saved 33 million gallons, a 46% reduction.
  • 90 irrigation controllers were upgraded to weather-based models. 70 flow sensors and 70 meter valves were installed. 20,000 sprinkler heads and nozzles were replaced.
• The Water Efficiency Program’s pilot test on weather-based irrigation controllers at the School of Medicine saved over 5,000 gallons per day, a reduction in water use of about 26%.
  • This pilot test saved nearly 2 million gallons per year!
• The upgrade to high efficiency toilets, faucets, and urinals at the School of Medicine saved nearly 200,000 gallons in the first year, a reduction of 44%. 15 toilets, 18 laboratory faucets, and 3 urinals were upgraded.

To get helpful conservation tips, find updated information about the drought, and find how Stanford is cutting back on water use, visit the WP&S website at suwater.stanford.edu. If you observe a leak on Stanford’s campus please report it to the Stanford 24-Hour LBRE Operations Hotline at 650-723-2281.