

ACTIONABLE IMPACT

Impact Area: Community



FEATURED COMPANY:



COMPANY SIZE: 11 - 50

FOCUS: WATER EFFICIENCY IMPROVEMENTS

Measuring and managing water-use is a great way to create an eco-conscious workplace. Installing water efficient appliances, choosing low-water landscaping and educating workers on responsible practices can help companies reduce their impact and save on costs associated with water use.

"We are a senior living community, and our residents care about what the world will look like when their grandkids get older. They benefit from a sense of purpose and feeling like they are contributing to sustainability with these improvements."

-Kate West, Director of Community Development

[Eaton Senior Communities](#) began instilling water-conscious practices in 2009 with the installation of water efficient appliances. Two years later, a partnership with [Denver Water](#) allowed them to upgrade their water irrigation system, redesign the property with drought-tolerant landscaping and expand their water-saving efforts.

Efficiency Upgrades with Denver Water

Eaton Senior Communities is located in Lakewood, Colorado. In 2013 and 2018 they received City of Lakewood Community Sustainability Awards for their ongoing greening efforts around water usage, energy savings and recycling initiatives. Eaton's water efficiency focus began in 2009 with easy installations like low-flow toilets and aerators to reduce resident water use. Two years later, Eaton decided to continue their sustainability journey by exploring the management side of their water use. They discovered [Denver Water's business rebate program](#) and applied. As a result, Eaton Senior Communities was granted rebates on new equipment and an upfront payment for the projected water savings over the following five years! This allowed them to move forward with larger sustainability efforts focused on outdoor improvements.

Eaton Senior Communities worked with a landscaping company, Environmental Design Inc., to improve campus water efficiencies with hardscaping, large rocks, cobblestone, drought-tolerant grasses, bushes and perennials. Many of the plant choices were guided by Colorado State University's list of [low-water plants native to the state](#). Eaton Senior Communities upgraded their irrigation system with new rotor heads, spray nozzles and a master controller with sensors and satellite communication to conserve water.

LASTING IMPACT

With these upgrades Eaton saw up to 50 percent in water savings during irrigation months, and the rebates provided by Denver Water amounted to approximately 28 percent of the total project cost. Eight years later, all of this installed equipment is still functioning well! Residents and staff alike think the landscaping turned out beautifully, and an increase in pollinators has served as an added benefit to neighboring gardens.

These greening initiatives were led by the senior living community and residents who wish to preserve and protect the world for their grandchildren's future. Learn more about Eaton Senior Communities' various sustainability improvements [here!](#)

- [Denver Water Commercial Rebates](#)
- [Low-Water Native Plants for Colorado Gardens](#)
- [Blog on efficient sprinkler systems by Environmental Designs Inc.](#)

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