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ENERGY STAR® Qualified Water Coolers

UC Irvine Saves Big with ENERGY STAR Bottled Water Coolers

From filling up a water bottle to topping off a mug of hot tea, it's hard to beat the ease and convenience of a bottled water cooler. But did you know that a standard hot & cold bottled water cooler can use more energy than a large refrigerator?

“The new ENERGY STAR qualified coolers provide significant energy savings over the previous unrated models.”

—**Harry Gunther**
UC Irvine Director of
Material Management

Harry Gunther at the University of California, Irvine (UCI) does. And when the University set out to re-negotiate their bottled water cooler contract in 2005, Gunther, their Director of Material Management, made sure the contract specified energy efficient ENERGY STAR qualified water coolers. “We had been trying to obtain commercial grade ENERGY STAR coolers for some time, so it was great to see that our supplier had been listening. The new ENERGY STAR coolers provide significant energy savings over the previous unrated model” said Gunther.

UCI awarded the contract to Arrowhead® Brand Mountain Spring Water, which is part of the Nestlé Waters North America family of bottled spring water brands. Although the upgrade to ENERGY STAR qualified water coolers cost slightly more than non-qualified coolers, no one in management was opposed to the switch. Gunther said that “the people who are interested in energy savings, the facility managers, they're happy about the conversion. Executive management is happy because it pushes forward our commitment to ENERGY STAR. Academic departments aren't calling; they don't even notice the change”.

ENERGY STAR qualified water coolers need only about half the energy of conventional units to supply hot and cold water. This can save as much as \$47 per unit per year for hot & cold qualified models, and up to \$6 per unit per year for cold only qualified models.

UCI expects that after the \$15,000 cost to convert their 410 water cooler fleet, they will net roughly \$16,000 per year in energy savings. Due to their widespread availability, it is unlikely nowadays that such a large commercial site like UCI, or any site for that matter, should have to pay up front for ENERGY STAR coolers. But their willingness to pay attests to the fact that the savings were significant.

In fact, the other nine state Universities in the California school system have taken notice of UCI's energy savings, and will soon be rolling out their own ENERGY STAR water cooler conversion with the help of Arrowhead Water. The energy savings from the new coolers should substantially reduce the \$1.4 million that is annually spent on water and energy for all coolers in the UC school system.

Water coolers that have earned the ENERGY STAR not only help organizations reduce their energy bills, but also help make a difference for the environment. This is because products that earn the ENERGY STAR prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy efficiency guidelines set by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy.

To find out more about ENERGY STAR water coolers, visit <http://www.energystar.gov/watercoolers>, or contact EPA's Steve Ryan at Ryan.Steven@epa.gov.

ENERGY STAR Qualified Water Cooler Savings And Emissions Reductions				
Type	Typical ENERGY STAR Savings (kWh/yr)ⁱ	Average U.S. Savings (\$/year)ⁱⁱ	Average California State Savings (\$/year)ⁱⁱⁱ	CO₂ Emissions Reduction (lbs/year)^{iv}
Hot & Cold	361	\$34	\$47	578
Cold Only / Cook & Cold	47	\$4	\$6	75

ⁱ Source: U.S. EPA Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP)

ⁱⁱ Using average U.S. commercial electrical rate of 9.37 cents per kWh. (Source: *EIA Table 5.6.B. Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by Sector, by State, Year-to-Date through December 2006 and 2005 (Cents per kilowatthour)*).

ⁱⁱⁱ Using average California State commercial electrical rate of 13.14 cents per kWh. (Source: *EIA Table 5.6.B. Average Retail Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by Sector, by State, Year-to-Date through December 2006 and 2005 (Cents per kilowatthour)*).

^{iv} Using average U.S. CO₂ (lbs) per kWh of 1.60. (Source: US EPA ENERGY STAR)