

# PUBLIC OUTREACH

Education, outreach and public awareness are essential prerequisites to the successful adoption and implementations of conservation practices in a university's water management.

- Research ways to develop a university water conservation education program
- Build interdepartmental collaboration
- Create a campus-wide sustainability culture

View a public outreach guide to promote on-campus water conservation education at [uhwater.weebly.com](http://uhwater.weebly.com).

## MEET THE TEAM

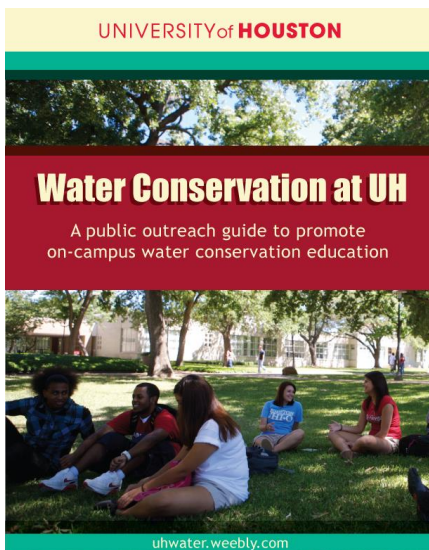
Thanh-Uyen Tran: Finance  
Justin Cruz: Petroleum Engineering  
Joanne Ma: Architecture  
Itay Porat: Civil Engineering  
Lawrence Giannotti: Petroleum Engineering

Learn more about university water conservation strategies and how to implement sound technical methodologies.

[www.uhwater.weebly.com](http://www.uhwater.weebly.com)

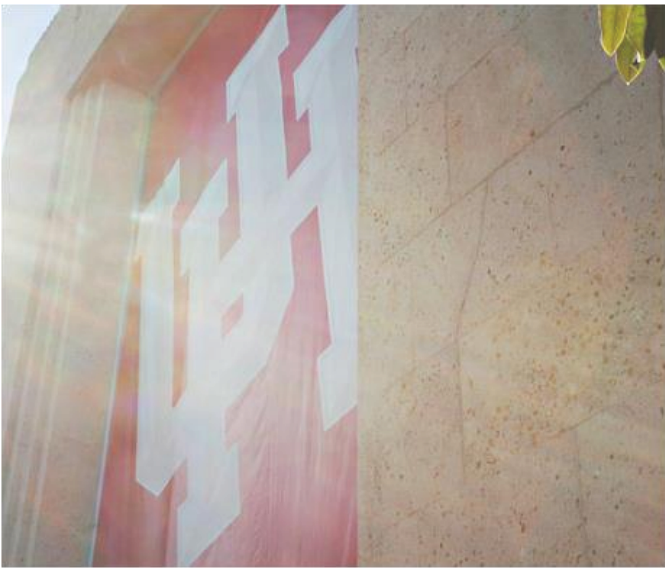
UNIVERSITY of  
HOUSTON

# UNIVERSITY WATER CONSERVATION GUIDE



UNIVERSITY of  
HOUSTON

The University of Houston is an EEO/AA Institute.



## Addressing the Problem

Water is an essential resource and one of the prime elements responsible for life on Earth. As a leading public Tier One research university in the state of Texas, the University of Houston has the potential to expand its water conservation efforts and strengthen its performance and reputation in sustainability efforts.

As water scarcity becomes more prevalent in both arid and non-arid regions throughout the entire country, it is important to analyze our current water usage, implement conservation strategies and prepare for potential future water shortages. The four components to look at are utilities, rainwater collection, landscape/irrigation and public outreach. This brochure serves as a guide for other universities to improve their water conservation managements.

### UTILITIES:

Replacing or adjusting specific water-saving appliances can save significant amounts of water, operational costs and maintenance time. Reducing indoor water use can also be accomplished through water-efficiency standards for plumbing fixtures.

- Contact your Facilities Services department
- Check the water efficiency of current utilities
  - Replace conventional urinals with waterless versions
  - Use low-flow showerhead that meets national efficiency standards and on-campus water conservation requirements

### RAINWATER COLLECTION:

Rainwater harvesting system components include collection surfaces, roof washer, filtration system, storage tanks and a distribution system, which catches precipitation and transfers it to a storage tank. Locations are chosen due to their abundance of surrounding landscape.

- Contact local contractors to obtain a quote
- Create a budget
- Check current building codes and regulations in your area

### Advantages:

1. Easy maintenance
2. Reduced water bills
3. Irrigation uses
4. Readily available water source in case of fire
5. Reduce floods and soil erosion

### LANDSCAPE AND IRRIGATION:

Implementation of weather sensitive irrigation control systems can lead to a significant reduction in excess watering, especially in the hot summer months when over-watering is more common. Also, the incorporation of native, or naturalized, plants in green spaces helps save on extraneous watering non-native plants would demand, while creating an atmosphere that celebrates local ecology.

- Lookup university irrigation and construction regulations
- Check irrigation controllers, sprinkler location and water coverage
- Research low-water native plants

