

RACKING UP THE SAVINGS: PLANNING AND EVALUATING COST-BENEFICIAL WATER CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

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REFERENCE: *Proceedings of the 2011 Georgia Water Resources Conference*, held April 11–13, 2011, at the University of Georgia.

Abstract. As Georgia communities strive to use water more efficiently, planning for the appropriate water conservation programs is critical to successfully managing demands. The Alliance for Water Efficiency, a national stakeholder-based non-profit, non-governmental organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water, has developed an Excel-based model that can evaluate the water savings, costs, and benefits of conservation programs for a specific water utility. The presentation will overview the tracking tool components, including data needs and expected outputs. Using information entered into the Tool from the utility's system, it provides a standardized methodology for water savings and benefit-cost accounting, and includes a library of pre-defined conservation activities from which users can build conservation programs. The presentation will also describe how water utility managers can use the Tool in a variety of ways to aid their water resource planning and operations.