

2011 WaterSmart Business Program
Recognized for Water Management
Community Food Bank

The Community Food Bank of Tucson regards water to be as precious as the food it stores and distributes to help the needy and the hungry. In the last year-plus, the organization replaced nearly all the plumbing in its bathrooms, installing 17 auto-flush toilets (1.6g); 3 flush-valve toilets (1.6g); 3 auto-flush urinals (1.0g); and 17 automatic sink faucets.



The Community Food Bank is located within a large warehouse-style building. Thus, customer traffic, deliveries, and the nature of its operation necessitate a lot of paved surface area to accommodate everyone and everything. But a large area on its west side is reserved for landscaped trees and plants, and a demonstration garden which provides locally-grown vegetables and eggs for its farmers' market. All this is irrigated by rainwater, collected from the building's roof into a 14,700-gallon cistern. A second one is planned for the east side. The decreased water usage has also markedly reduced the organization's sewer charges.



The Community Food Bank is also conserving energy. Solar panels on its covered parking provide 30% of the overall electricity used for the building.