



The WaterLink direct installation program (WaterLink) is a program of Ecology Action that provided water-energy efficiency upgrades to residents and businesses in underserved communities of the San Francisco Bay Area, Monterey Bay Area, and Santa Clara Valley. Disadvantaged Communities, (DACs) identified by Cal-EnviroScreen 2.0 and Department of Water Resources DAC mapping tools, were prioritized to receive direct installation services.

Accomplishments

- Provided multilingual technical assistance to help **24,664** families, businesses, schools, and nonprofit organizations with limited resources reduce their water demand.
- Pioneered direct installation engagement strategies while maximizing the water and energy conserved per grant dollar spent.
- Increased community and water system resiliency to impacts of drought and climate change.
- Targeted water end-uses with high embedded energy to maximize the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.
- Provided job training and \$ **\$1,250,478** in annual utility bill savings to underserved communities.



Overall Program Results

WaterLink Program	Properties Served	Annual Water Savings (Gallons)	Annual GHG Emissions Reduced (MTCO ₂ E)
Monterey Bay	5,990	113,572,026	4,530
San Francisco Bay Area	9,090	218,500,000	7,295
Santa Clara County	9,584	494,876,768	72,759
TOTAL	24,664	826,948,794	84,584

Program Partners

- Ecology Action
- Santa Clara Valley Water District
- Monterey Peninsula Water Management District
- City of Watsonville
- Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency
- East Bay Municipal Utilities District
- California Conservation Corps

Timing

March 2016 - February 2019

Funding

California Department of Water Resources 2014 and 2016 Water-Energy Grant Programs



California Climate Investments



Project 1: Direct Installation in Single- and Multi-Family Homes

- Installed 1.5 gpm shower heads, 1.5 gpm kitchen faucet aerators, and 1gpm bathroom faucet aerators in **19,760** homes
- Upgraded **315** clothes washers, **42** dishwashers, and **50** hot water heaters to ENERGY STAR most-efficient models in single-family homes.
- Upgraded **257** commercial clothes washers to ENERGY STAR most-efficient models in multi-family common laundry facilities
- Installed **51** demand controls on hot water recirculation pumps in multi-family apartments (Santa Clara only)
- Fixed **76** egregious leaks wasting more than 24 gallons/day with innovative leak voucher program.
- Referred residents to indoor and landscape efficiency rebate programs offered by water agencies.

Project 2: Direct Installation in Commercial Kitchens

- Installed 3,528 low-flow, pre-rinse spray nozzles and 18,582 0.5 gpm faucet aerators at **4,772** restaurants, grocery stores, and school cafeterias.
- Upgraded **54** commercial dish machines to ENERGY STAR models.
- Referred businesses to utility rebate programs and local green business programs.

Project 3: Direct Installation of Water-Efficient Landscapes

- Replaced 49,056 square feet of thirsty, non-functional turf at public facilities with attractive, climate-appropriate landscapes and efficient low-volume irrigation systems.

Project 4: Direct Installation of Ozone Laundry Systems Hotels and Senior Homes

- Installed ozonating systems on existing commercial washers at 5 facilities, eliminating the need for water heating and reducing the number of cycles required for washing.

Service Areas

